

# THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 2961.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1884.

PRICE  
THREEPENCE  
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.—EVENING EXHIBITION.**—The Exhibition will be OPEN in the EVENING from MONDAY, July 22, to MONDAY, August 4 (Bank Holiday), from Half-past Seven to Half-past Ten o'clock.—Admission, 6d.; Catalogues, 6d. On the Bank Holiday the admission throughout the day will be 6d. On other days it will be as usual.

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**CUTHBERT BEDE'S LECTURES.**—'Modern Humourists,' 'Wit and Humour,' 'Light Literature,' 'Humorous Literature,' 'Familiar Clerks,' &c., by the Author of 'Verdant Green.' They have been delivered in London, Windsor, Oxford, Cambridge, Hull, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leeds, Northampton, Leicester, Norwich, Yarmouth, Crowkerne, Stamford, Oakham, Rotherham, North Perrot, Kidderminster, &c. Enlivened with wit and anecdote, and illustrated with humorous readings from Dickens, Burroughs, and other authors. Cuthbert Bede's name has attracted large and brilliant gatherings. He is an entertaining lecturer, and a reader of great dramatic power. He is fairly entitled to be ranked as a leading lecturer of the present time. For terms and dates apply to Mr. W. W. Andrews, F.R.H.S., Literary Club, Hull.

**LECTURES.—MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES.** LL.D., having returned from his Lecture Tour in America and Australia, is OPEN to ARRANGEMENTS during the coming winter with Literary Societies, Mechanics' Institutes, Y.M.C.A.s, &c.—Address 41 Fulham Park-road, London, S.W.

**MR. HENRY BLACKBURN'S LECTURES.**—Mr. HENRY BLACKBURN, Editor of 'Academy Notes,' will continue his popular ART LECTURES in 1884-5, commencing in OCTOBER. The next Lecture on 'Pictures of the Year,' the Royal Academy, Paris Salon, &c., will be illustrated by Lindlight.—For particulars and dates address to 103, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

**DR. N. HEINEMANN'S LECTURES** in Literary Institutes, Colleges, &c.—Dr. HEINEMANN, F.R.G.S., who has lectured with great success before crowded audiences at the leading Institutes, is now arranging for the delivery of his Lectures. New Prospectuses, containing Twenty-six Subjects of general interest, on application.—Dr. HEINEMANN, 80, Upper Gloucester-place, London, N.W.

**MR. WM. LEIGHTON JORDAN** (D.V.) be in London in November, and ready to make ENGAGEMENTS for EVENING LECTURES on the New Principles of Natural Philosophy.—Address care of Mr. David Bogue, 3, St. Martin's-place, London, W.C.

**WORCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL.** SEPTEMBER 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th 1884.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 7th, GRAND OPENING SERVICE.

TUESDAY MORNING, 'The Redemption.' TUESDAY EVENING, Cantata, 'Hero and Leander,' and Miscellaneous Selection.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Cherubini's 'Mass in D minor,' 'The Christian's Prayer,' and other works.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, 'The Elijah.' THURSDAY MORNING, Dvorak's 'Stabat Mater,' conducted by the Composer; 'St. Paul.'

THURSDAY EVENING, Selections from 'Orpheus,' and Miscellaneous Selection.

FRIDAY MORNING 'The Messiah.' FRIDAY EVENING Grand Closing Service.

Principal Vocalists—Madame ALHANI, Mrs. HUTCHINSON, and Miss ANNA WILLIAMS. Madame ENRIQUEZ, and Madame PATEY. Mr. LLOYD and Mr. BOULCOTT NEWTH, Mr. BREKELTON and Mr. SARTLEY.

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**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.—EXAMINATION** for ASSISTANT EXAMINERSHIP in the PATENT OFFICE (27-28), August 19. Salary 250-400. The date specified is the latest at which applications can be received. They must be made on forms to be obtained with particulars from the SECRETARY, Civil Service Commission, London, S.W.

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The Session will BEGIN on THURSDAY, October 9th, 1884.

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W. CADWALADR DAVIES, Secretary and Registrar. Bangor, July 17, 1884.

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5. HUMAN PROGRESS under CHRISTIANITY.
6. THE CHURCH in OLD LONDON.
7. A NEW ATTACK on the ATHANASIAN CREED.
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- A SANCTUARY. Horatio Nelson Powers.
- IN REMEMBRANCE. Thomas William Parsons.
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- AMERICANS at PLAY. Edward Eggleston.
- CHINESE GORDON. W. T. Stead.
- ON the TRACK of ULYSSES. W. J. Stillman.
- DEATH'S ANCHOR. George Parsons Lathrop.
- A NEW-ENGLAND WINTER. I. Henry James.
- THE REMARKABLE WRECK of the "THOMAS HYKE." Frank R. Stockton.
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- A PROBLEMATIC CHARACTER. I. Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen.
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SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1884.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
COL. TCHENG-KI-TONG ON THE CHINESE ...	103
SIR O. CAVENAGH'S REMINISCENCES ...	103
SHARP'S NEW POEMS ...	104
THE BOOK OF KALILAH AND DIMNAH ...	103
UNDERWOOD'S MEMOIR OF WHITTIER ...	105
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE IN CANADA ...	108
A COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT ...	108
THE COMMISSION ON THE CITY COMPANIES ...	109
NOVELS OF THE WEEK ...	110
LIBRARY TABLE—LIST OF NEW BOOKS ...	111-112
THE COVERDALE BIBLE OF 1535; TREVISIA AND BATHMAN VFFON BARTHOLOME; THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE AT WOKING ...	112-113
LITERARY GOSSIP ...	114
SCIENCE—NORDENFELT MACHINE GUNS; LIBRARY TABLE; GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES; ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES; ASTRONOMICAL NOTES; EARLY DISCOVERIES IN AUSTRALASIA; GOSSIP ...	115-118
FINE ARTS—LIBRARY TABLE; WESTMINSTER HALL; SALE; GOSSIP ...	119-120
MUSIC—SPOHR'S CALVARY; GOSSIP ...	121
DRAMA—DYER'S FOLK-LORE OF SHAKESPEARE; LIBRARY TABLE; WEEK; THE 'AULULARIA' AT THE ORATORY SCHOOL, EDGEBASTON; GOSSIP ...	122-124
MISCELLANEA ...	124

## LITERATURE

*Les Chinois peints par Eux-mêmes.* Par le Colonel Tcheng-ki-tong. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

COL. TCHENG has been ten years in Paris, has learnt to speak French well and to write it with ease, and so feels prompted to enlighten Europe on the subject of his countrymen. The publication of a work on China written in French by a Chinaman is a curious and interesting fact, and many readers of 'Les Chinois peints par Eux-mêmes' will in consequence of the authorship take up the volume expecting to find in its pages authoritative statements on Chinese matters in dispute among European writers, and glimpses behind the scenes which are hidden from the gaze of foreigners. It is to be feared that all such persons will be disappointed. People are far too apt to imagine that because a man is a native of an Oriental state he must necessarily be qualified to write a full and authentic account of his countrymen. Col. Tcheng, for example, is a young man who, as we have said, left China a decade ago, who had made no special researches into the history of his country, nor into the manners and customs of his countrymen, and who, in fact, is very much in the position of some young captain in Her Majesty's 160th Regiment of the Line, who after a long absence abroad might undertake the task of writing a history of the English people. The result of such an attempt would probably be of doubtful value, and equally so is Col. Tcheng's.

In all matters connected with the ordinary routine of Chinese life with which he is familiar his information is thoroughly trustworthy, but, like the majority of his countrymen, he lacks that critical power necessary to an historian, and the imagination required to enable him to understand the thoughts and ideas of others. Although there is nothing new in his first chapter on "Considérations sur la Famille," there is nothing to be objected to until he begins to draw comparisons between the sympathy felt by Easterns and Westerns for the sufferings of others, and on this point he gives vent to ideas which are amazing to those who know anything

about the subject. "Ce qui m'a frappé," he writes,

"dans les mœurs du monde occidental, c'est l'indifférence du cœur humain. L'emalheur des autres n'a aucun attrait; au contraire, on a même écrit qu'il faisait plaisir. Le fait n'est pas louable, et cependant on ne manque ni de cœur ni de bon sens..... Alfred de Musset, le poète favori d'un grand nombre, a écrit ces vers :

Celui qui ne sait pas durant les nuits brûlantes  
Se lever en sursaut, sans raison, les pieds nus,  
Marcher, prier, pleurer des larmes ruisselantes,  
Et devant l'infini joindre les mains tremblantes,  
Le cœur plein de pitié pour des maux inconnus.

Pour les maux inconnus ? Voilà bien l'idéal !  
La pitié pour les maux qu'on ne connaît pas  
remplace celle qu'on devrait avoir pour les maux  
que l'on connaît trop."

And so on. He is evidently very anxious also to defend some of the customs of his country which are generally considered in Europe as being open to objection. In the system which forbids a young man even to see the young lady destined to be his wife until after the marriage ceremony has been performed, he sees nothing needing reformation; and against the practice of concubinage and the operation of the extremely liberal laws of divorce in vogue in China he has not a word to say. As to the position of women in China, he considers it to be everything that can be desired. It is true that their freedom is circumscribed, that their avocations are of a somewhat menial order, and that their education is much neglected, but

"nous pensons que la science approfondie est un fardeau inutile pour la femme : non pas que nous lui fassions l'injure de supposer qu'elle nous est inférieure pour l'étude des lettres et des sciences, mais parce que ce serait la faire dévier de sa véritable voie. La femme n'a pas besoin de se perfectionner : elle naît parfaite ; et la science ne lui apprendrait jamais ni la grâce ni la douceur, ces deux souveraines du foyer domestique qui s'inspirent de la nature."

This sounds very like the gushings of an exile in whose eyes the distance which separates him from his countrywomen lends enchantment to the view. It is only fair to Col. Tcheng, however, to add that he is an ardent admirer of Frenchwomen also, and appears to be the recipient of confidences from them of an extremely intimate and confidential nature. Europe generally he likes. "Mes compatriotes et moi," he says, "qui avons goûté du fruit de l'arbre d'Occident, savons très bien que ce fruit a de belles couleurs, qu'il est savoureux, et que l'Europe est une admirable partie du monde à visiter."

On all such subjects Col. Tcheng writes amusingly, and as long as he deals only with matters of opinion with regard to his countrymen we have no fault to find, although we often differ from his conclusions. But when he comes to matters of fact we are obliged to join issue with him. Judging from his chapters on the language and literature of China, we should imagine that he has not drunk deep at the fountain of knowledge. His history of the written character is ludicrously inaccurate: "C'est après l'an 3000 qu'un empereur du nom de Tchang-ki imagina les lettres, appelées Tsiang." Ts'ang-kieh, not Tchang-ki, is said to have invented letters. The statement that he reigned as an emperor is regarded by every serious writer as purely legendary, and what Col. Tcheng means by "les lettres appelées Tsiang" we are at a

loss to know. "Plus tard encore," he goes on to say,

"sous le règne de l'empereur Tsang-Ouang..... un académicien nommé Su-lin introduisit le principe naturel des objets dans l'écriture. Ces lettres s'appellent Ta-Tchiang."

The name of the emperor referred to was not Tsang-Ouang, but Sian Wang (Ouang); the "académicien" was not named Su-lin, but She Chow; and the characters he invented were not called Ta-Tchiang, but Ta-chuen. It will be observed that no dialectical variations can account for these differences, which are obvious inaccuracies, and it is plain that Col. Tcheng, trusting to the general ignorance in Europe of everything Chinese, has not thought it worth while to refresh his memory by reference to books.

His knowledge of the literature of his country is on a par with that of the writing. He considers, he tells us, that in the collections of the primitive songs of the people we have the prototype of newspapers. This idea is sufficiently whimsical, but he goes on to say:

"Ces chants ont été perdus dans le grand incendie des Livres; mais Confucius en recueillit trois cents, dont il a composé le 'Livre des Vers.'"

Unfortunately for Col. Tcheng, Confucius died 266 years before the burning of the books took place. Confucius did, however, compile the 'Livre des Vers,' which was among those books which in the year B.C. 213 were consigned to the flames, and many curious stories are told of the way in which its contents were resuscitated. Portions of one copy are said to have been found in the walls of Confucius's house, and on the revival of literature old men came forward to supply from their well-stored memories odes which it was feared were lost.

Col. Tcheng compares unfavourably the value of literary degrees in Europe with that of similar honours in China, and though, perhaps, he may be right in regretting that our degrees do not receive greater attention than they do, yet it cannot be denied that the opposite extreme prevails in China, with results which, as the events of the day are demonstrating, are eminently unsatisfactory. Although on this as on most matters Col. Tcheng has failed to describe his countrymen in their true colours, his book is not without its value as containing the views of a Chinaman on the social and political aspects of European society.

*Reminiscences of an Indian Official.* By General Sir Orfeur Cavenagh, K.C.S.I. (Allen & Co.)

SIR ORFEUR CAVENAGH'S Indian career extended over forty years, only interrupted by one visit to Europe on duty and one on sick leave. The period was most eventful, embracing the Afghan war, the brief Gwalior campaign, the two Sikh wars, the conquest of Scinde, the Burmese and China wars, and the Indian Mutiny. What, therefore, he saw, what he did, and what he heard from eye-witnesses have supplied him with ample materials for a volume. His book is written in a modest style, but in parts is too prolix. Much of what is related has been often told before, but much of it is either quite fresh or but little known. Here and there are many anecdotes of great interest. A good soldier, who fought against the Mahrattas at Maharajpore, where his left leg was

carried off by a round shot, and at Buddiwal, where he was severely wounded by a round or grape shot in the left arm, his active military career presents little of special interest, though his narrative throws additional light on the state of the Bengal army before the Mutiny. One little anecdote, however, as it refers to a living hero, is worth extracting. On the 23rd of December, 1843, the army was in presence of the Gwalior troops, but hostilities had not actually commenced, and there was just a chance that they might be averted. On the morning of the day in question, whilst the commander-in-chief, Sir Hugh Gough, "attended by his staff, was taking his ride in advance of our line of sentries, he came suddenly upon a picket of the Gwalior troops, the men of which abused and insulted his Excellency, and threatened to attack him; fortunately their arms were piled, and Major Grant, Deputy-Adjutant-General, took advantage of their moving forward to dash between them and their muskets. In the mean time a foraging party of our cavalry, which happened opportunely to be within hail, galloped up, when the tables were turned, and the Mahrattas sued for pardon."

The Major Grant in question is the present Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant.

As soon as Cavenagh recovered from his wounds he was rewarded for his services by being placed in charge of the Mysore princes, and subsequently the superintendence of the ex-Ameers of Scinde was added to his functions. Four years later he was appointed to the political charge of the Nepalese mission to England, and the account of this part of his career is full of interest. Not only was Jung Bahadur a most remarkable man, by no means averse to conversing freely about his past adventurous career, but when accompanying him Cavenagh was brought in contact with persons of the highest position, both in England and France. Among these was the Duke of Wellington, whom Jung Bahadur was very anxious to see. Capt. Cavenagh accordingly expressed Jung Bahadur's wish to the great Duke, and received from him a note, dated midnight, Saturday, June 29th, 1850, saying that his engagements were such that he could not fix the hour at which he could on the Monday receive the Nepalese ambassador, but promising to write again early on the Monday morning. The second letter fixed noon, and wound up with the following characteristic words: "It is no part of the Duke's duty to receive the Ambassadors at Her Majesty's Court, but he names the hour, as he has been so desired, which he hopes will suit the Ambassador." By some mischance this note did not reach Capt. Cavenagh till five minutes before noon, and, notwithstanding that all speed was used, the party did not reach Apsley House till half-past twelve. "The Duke was very angry, and I was, of course, the object of his anger. He stated that crowned heads had not kept him waiting as I had done." The excuses made, however, soon mollified the Duke, and the visit passed over satisfactorily. Capt. Cavenagh tells us that Jung Bahadur "could never reconcile Lord John Russell's appearance with the idea of his being Prime Minister of so powerful a country as England." The Nepalese ambassador was taken to several reviews, and was much struck by our troops, especially by the Life Guards. In connexion

with this we may mention an anecdote which Capt. Cavenagh has omitted. In 1850 the 93rd Highlanders was one of the finest regiments in the army, and the Grenadier company was conspicuous for the size and stature of the men composing it. So much was Jung Bahadur impressed by them that he expressed a wish to purchase the company and take it with him to Nepal. In July, 1854, Capt. Cavenagh was appointed Town and Fort Major of Calcutta. In the following April, his health having been affected by his wounds, he went to Europe on sick leave, returning to Calcutta in the August of the following year, and at once remarked

"the sulky bearing of the sepoys, so different to that to which I had been accustomed. Men were in the habit of passing officers without saluting—a breach of discipline which, although apparently slight, I never overlooked, as it always leads to graver acts of insubordination. I had long anticipated some outbreak on the part of the native troops, and, in private letters, to members both of the Board of Control and Court of Directors, pointed out what must be the natural result of the system of centralization introduced into the Bengal Army, under which officers had become mere cyphers, and consequently ceased to take an interest either in their men or in their duties. Commanded as the sepoys are by officers alien in race and religion, their loyalty and efficiency must depend almost entirely upon the influence exercised by their immediate superiors."

During the Mutiny our author's duties were of the most arduous nature, and he displayed in their discharge great energy, nerve, intelligence, and prudence. He had, necessarily, constant personal intercourse with Lord Canning, on whom he pronounces the following verdict:—

"There can be no doubt that, in the first instance, the measures of the Government were marked with delay and indecision. This may be attributed to the following causes:—1st. Lord Canning's want of perfect confidence in his staff, owing to his, comparatively speaking, recent assumption of office. 2nd. To his anxious desire to avoid sanctioning any act or issuing any order that might have even the appearance of injustice or timidity. Hence, not only did he at first burthen himself with details to an extent utterly beyond the power of any single individual (I have often found his table and every chair in his room covered with boxes filled with papers which he was trying to wade through), but all suggestions from those around him were received with doubt and hesitation. Of this no one could have been more painfully conscious than myself; yet, after the first few months, a complete change took place in this respect. . . . With the exception of the late Sir George Edmonstone, who early formed a sound opinion as to the nature of the impending crisis, there were none of Lord Canning's civil advisers, able men as they were, capable of estimating the extent of the danger; for they had all passed their lives in the performance of civil duties within the limits of Bengal proper, and had little or no knowledge of the temper of the soldiery, or the feelings of the people in the North-West, whilst that fine old military politician, Sir John Low, had been absent for several years from the Upper Provinces, and may not, therefore, have been aware of the various influences that had been at work in that quarter. Even the gallant soldier, General Hearsey, who commanded the Presidency Division, for a time scarcely believed the disaffection to be widespread. Is it, therefore, to be wondered at that his lordship also entertained doubts on this score? Even his detractors could not but admire his self-devotion and his love of justice; whilst those who knew him well,

believe that, had the wave of rebellion been delayed for another year, when he would have been capable of forming his own judgment as to its force, it would have been promptly and effectually repelled."

In the summer of 1858 Col. Cavenagh was appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements, a post which he occupied for seven years, at the end of which time this dependency was transferred to the Colonial Department, and his active career came to an end. During his tenure of office he entertained many distinguished visitors of all nations at Government House. From one of these he heard the following anecdote:—

"On the night of the *coup d'état* a large party were dining at the Elysée, amongst the number the Duke of Hamilton. The President appeared quite at his ease, and upon the cheroots produced being praised stated where they were to be obtained. About 10 P.M. he excused himself for leaving the table, saying that he was very busy. When the party subsequently broke up the Duke went to his room to enquire the address of the tobacconist. The President, hearing his voice, came out, wrote down the address for him, chatted a little, and then calmly bade him good-night. At that time the arrests were being made, and some of his guests were amongst the sufferers. When Louis Napoleon failed at Boulogne the attempt was being ridiculed at a party in London, when Count d'Orsay remarked, 'There is no need to laugh. Napoleon is one of the cleverest men in Europe, and will sit upon the throne of France yet.'"

A story of Lord Dalhousie's reign is amusing, and with it we may conclude our review:—

"At a Queen's Birthday ball, he happened to accost a portly and somewhat sanctified officer high on the staff, who was not given to ball-going except as a matter of duty. Asking him what he thought of the gay scene before them, the worthy colonel replied that it was all vanity and vexation of spirit. 'Yes,' said Lord Dalhousie, pointing first to the glittering Star of the Bath upon the colonel's breast, 'here is the vanity, and' then lower down, where apparently there had been considerable difficulty in getting the buckle of the sword-belt to meet, 'there is the vexation of spirit.'"

*Earth's Voices: Transcripts from Nature, Sospitra, and other Poems.* By William Sharp. (Stock.)

THE name Mr. Sharp has given to his volume is perhaps somewhat misleading as to its character and as to its contents. Poetry has always occupied itself so much with what has been called the "pathetic fallacy" that the phrase "Earth's Voices" leads the reader to expect a rendering into verse of Nature's symbols, a questioning of Nature as to what she can reveal to man of his destiny. And this expectation is intensified when we find that Mr. Sharp's favourite metrical form is the detached stanza—a form resembling, and in some degree representing, the *rispetto* of the Italian peasants. The very *raison d'être* of this form is the expression of the "pathetic fallacy," the reading of Nature's hieroglyphs and applying them to man's own passions and sentiments. Since Mrs. Webster introduced into English poetry this Italian form of isolated stanzas descriptive of Nature it has been much practised both here and in America, but she still remains the only poet who has mastered the *rispetto* and caught its true artistic intent. This intent is, as we have hinted, in every case to read into poetry the



human lessons with which every aspect of Nature is charged.

In the pure *stornello* and the pure *rispetto* the "pathetic fallacy" reaches its climax, for it is the very be-all and end-all of the metrical structure itself. We do not say this in disparagement of these delightful forms, but the reverse, for assuredly the phrase "pathetic fallacy" is itself a fallacy—a fallacy so startling, a misconception showing on the part of those who use it so incredible an ignorance of the nature of poetry and the course it has taken from the first, that it is marvellous it should ever have gained acceptance. Without this "pathetic fallacy" there could exist no poetry at all, no articulate speech at all—no human mind, indeed, as distinguished from that "pensive somnambulism" which makes, according to Victor Hugo, the mind of the brute world. Not only is the entire growth of human language the result of the so-called "pathetic fallacy," but most likely it was the recognition of Nature's symbolism which formed one of the first factors in the development of man from some more primitive form.

But as we have often said, there is in criticism no nonsense so monstrous, there is no paradox so impudent, that it will not gain vogue when clothed in a neat phrase or a pointed epigram, or when it struts in the toga of authority. Yet undoubtedly poetry may be written apart from the pathetic temper—poetry consisting of simple transcripts of Nature, and ignoring altogether Nature's hieroglyphs and symbols. The volume before us is an illustration of what we mean.

The voices which Mr. Sharp gives to the Earth are not the symbolical voices dealing with Man's destiny, such as the poet mostly attributes to her; they are Earth's own rejoicings over her own existence and her own perennial beauty. From Mr. Sharp's interpretations of Earth's voices we learn that Earth is quite as vain and egotistical as Man, and will sometimes wax so eager in her self-praise as to become unmetrical in her song. The forests, the rivers, the waterfalls, the woods, the mountains, the mists, all speak up for themselves with a frankness of self-gratulation which is itself a charm, and this makes it the more desirable that they should attend to their metres.

Whether the Amazon and the Mississippi and the other American rivers that here extol in picturesque lines their own beauty show a somewhat overweening estimate of themselves, we must leave to Mr. Sharp's American critics. As to the Thames, however, Father Thames, thanks to recent sewage Acts, does not here exaggerate his own charms, though as to his lilies, the less said about these the better till you get a long way above Putney Bridge, and then the Thames belongs to the poor cockney no longer:—

Through wooded banks and lovely ways  
My silver waters flow:  
I linger long in some sweet place  
Where lilies blow:

Past villages and towns I swim  
With ever-widening size,  
Until at last I chant my hymn  
Where London lies.

The commerce of the world I bear,  
Till seaward I have pass'd  
And, blent with salt waves, onward fare  
Through ocean vast.

The Tiber and the Rhine are, apparently, not rivers of a boastful turn like the swaggering Mississippi, who begins by exclaiming:

With mighty rush and flow I sway  
For ever on my kingly way,  
And sing a new song night and day  
Wherever my brown waters stray.

The two famous European rivers, considering the associations of the one and the beauty of the other, speak of themselves with a modesty that becomes them:—

#### THE RHINE.

Thro' pasture-lands and vine-clad heights  
I curve and sweep—  
With memories of a thousand fights  
Lying hidden deep,  
With echoes of uncounted wars  
Long laid asleep—  
Past ruins of ancient castles grim  
Upon each steep.

#### THE TIBER.

Majestically, like some great song  
That moves unto a choral end,  
My yellow waters sweep along  
Through Rome, until at last they wend  
Through lonely Latin swamps till loud  
Sea-thunders greet them glad and proud.

From these extracts it will be seen that the most noticeable characteristic of the book is an eager desire to paint Nature as she is apart from the glamour shed over her by man's passions. To this end the poet seems at times willing to sacrifice almost everything, including, as we have hinted, the most obvious demands of form. In this matter he must mend his ways, or his forces will be all squandered.

Not the least interesting portion of the volume consists of Australian transcripts. For peaceful beauty there is, as we said when speaking of Mr. Gosse's poem 'The Farm,' no landscape comparable with that of England; but the scenery of Australia—with its wild perspectives and spiritual tapestries of light and shade, its marvellous moonlight effects, its gum trees and fern trees, wattle-blooms and flame trees—is likely to take a new and delightful place in English descriptive poetry. The flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolium*) must be the most wonderful of all the members of the vegetable world. It flourishes in the Illawarra mountain range, on the eastern side of New South Wales, and the mountains are conspicuous for miles out at sea by reason of the fiery glow of these trees in flower:—

#### THE FLAME TREE.

For miles the Illawarra range  
Runs level with Pacific seas:  
What glory when the morning breeze  
Upon its slopes doth shift and change  
Deep pink and crimson hues, till all  
The leagues-long distance seems a wall  
Of swift uncurling flames of fire  
That wander not nor reach up higher.

The rock lily, with its flower-stalk thirty feet high crowned with dark-red lily blooms several feet in circumference, is another most striking specimen of the Australian flora:—

#### THE ROCK LILY.

The amber-tinted level sands  
Unbroken stretch for leagues away  
Beyond these granite slabs, dull grey  
And lifeless, herbless—save where stands  
The mighty rock-flow'r towering high,  
With carmine blooms crowned gloriously.  
A giant amongst flowers it reigns,  
The glory of these Austral plains.

Nor has Mr. Sharp forgotten the equally strange and interesting fauna of Australia. Here is a striking description of the bell bird:—

The stillness of the Austral noon  
Is broken by no single sound—  
No lizards even on the ground  
Rustle amongst dry leaves—no tune  
The lyre-bird sings—yet hush! I hear  
A soft bell tolling, silvery clear!  
Low soft aerial chimes, unknown  
Save 'mid these silences alone.

In every part of the world morning is the time when Nature's power of fascinating man's soul is greatest. There is no landscape and no seascape that is not bewitching—bewitching by its grandeur or its gloom, by its pathos or its beauty—when the colours and the breezes of morning begin to stir slowly over it. For one hour in the twenty-four the breath of a new-born Paradise moves around the world. For it is not the breezes and the colours only that thrill the body and intoxicate the soul. The perfumes of the flowers, of the entire vegetable world, have for that short hour "a savour of heaven." And it is a fact that the songs of the birds have a distinctly clearer accent and more joyous swell at sunrise than at any other time of the day. But in no country is morning so beautiful as in the Australian bush. Owing to certain peculiarities of the atmosphere, an Australian morning can almost vie in grandeur and in pathos with morning at sea. Here is Mr. Sharp's picture of a December morning in the bush:—

The magpie midst the wattle-blooms  
Is singing loud and long:  
What fragrance in the scatter'd scent,  
What magic in the song!  
On yonder gum a mopeke's throat  
Out-gurgles laughter grim,  
And far within the fern-tree scrub  
A lyre-bird sings his hymn.  
Amongst the stringy-barks a crowd  
Of dazzling parakeets;  
But high o'er all the magpie loud  
His joyous song repeats.

In such poems as 'Moonrise at Sea,' 'The Coral Isle,' 'Green Seas,' &c., Mr. Sharp shows that the beauty of landscape has not entirely absorbed his attention, yet he has mainly (and wisely) confined himself to landscape.

It is not by descriptions that the magic of the sea can be brought before the reader's mind. This can only be achieved by the unconscious touch of one between whom and the sea there exists a sympathy as rare as it is mysterious. Of worldly and wearisome "seascapes" in prose and in verse modern literature is full. But few indeed are the writers who know (or who show that they know) how precious the sea is to man's life. There are but few who really and truly feel how infinite is the variety of the sea's charm. There are but few who know how the beauty of every other object of nature is increased and intensified as soon as ever it touches the sea. There are but few who really feel how the joyful news of sunrise, for instance, is never fully and finally proclaimed till the sea has owned it, caught it, tossed it from wave to wave. There are few who really feel that the silent message of the moon is never so eloquent in its silence as when translated by the rippling disc that answers it in the bosom of the sea. There are few who really feel that the calm stars are never so dowered with comfort to a soul in sorrow, and that the bright cloud-pagantry of a summer noon is never so joyful to a soul in joy, as when all these riches of the earth and air live a larger and fuller life in the mirror that girdles

the world. And those who do feel this are not often those who succeed in rendering the details of a landscape, whether they be poets or painters. Mr. Sharp's attempts in this direction are too few to disclose what are his capabilities as a sea painter.

The largest and most ambitious poem in the volume is upon the pathetic subject of Gaspara Stampa, the Venetian poet and friend of Titian and Sansovino, who committed suicide on account of the infidelity of her love the Count of Collato. Altogether the freshness and originality of the volume can hardly fail to make it a favourite with those to whom Nature is a delight in all her moods.

*The Book of Kalilah and Dimnah.* Translated from Arabic into Syriac. Edited by W. Wright, LL.D. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)

No other book of fables has perhaps had so wide a circulation or enjoyed so great a popularity as that of Bidpai. For hundreds and hundreds of years have these fables charmed Orientals by their concise narrative, by their sententious diction, and by the good sense and shrewdness of their pithy sentences. All classes could gain instruction from a book like this. The learned man would read it and understand it; the simple man would be amused by the pleasant narrative, without seeing the moral attached to the speeches of the birds and the beasts; the young would read it and remember the fables, and in years to come, when the eyes of their understanding had been opened by age, and their intellect had been matured, they would recognize the deep and important truths hidden under the words of the play-book of their youth. According to the preface by Ali the Persian, which the renowned Orientalist De Sacy printed in his edition of the Arabic text at Paris, 1816, the book was written very near the time of Alexander the Great. After the defeat of Porus the great conqueror had established another monarch in his place. But inasmuch as the successor of Porus treated the natives with contempt, they deposed him, and made a man called Dabsharm king in his room. The new monarch made several wars on the "nations around," but also gave himself up to the pleasures of the body. Now at this time a philosopher called Bidpai, a Brahmin, lived, and he, having watched with sorrow the behaviour of the new king, at length determined to take steps to cure the evil. He called his disciples together and invited their opinions and advice. They point out that it would be just as dangerous to wade into a river where the crocodile lurks, or to enter a lion's den, as to attempt to turn the course of the king's conduct. Bidpai then takes leave of them, and desires that they will meet him again after he has seen the king, for this he determines to do. Shortly after this Bidpai goes to court in the dress of a Brahmin, but remains silent. The king notices this, and in a long speech gives him permission to speak freely. Bidpai openly rebukes the king for the arbitrary use that he makes of his authority, and exhorts him to rely upon a mild and gentle government of the people, as that alone is consistent with good sense. At this the king Dabsharm is enraged, and sentences the plain-speaking

sage to death, but on consideration he commutes the sentence to imprisonment. One night Dabsharm, like Ahasuerus, is unable to sleep; and not being able to solve some problem which has arisen in his mind, he bethinks him of Bidpai, and his conscience smites him. He summons him to his presence, and commands him to speak again all that he has before spoken. Bidpai complies, and when he has finished the king informs him that he quite agrees with all that he has said. Afterwards the king appoints him vizier, and Bidpai uses the power of his office to do justice to "all sorts and conditions of men." Through his good counsels and advice the kingdom flourishes, and its king becomes the envy and admiration of all other kings. Shortly after this the king commissions Bidpai to write a book containing the precepts of morality and wisdom, but makes the stipulation that it shall be enlivened with story and fable. Bidpai then asks for a year in which to complete his task, and having chosen a disciple of his to act as scribe, he withdraws to a little room and dictates the book in fourteen chapters. At the end of the year the book is brought to the king, and Bidpai reads aloud his composition. The king is delighted with all he hears, and wishes to reward the author with rich dresses and jewels; but these he refuses, asking merely that the book may be kept in the king's library with the greatest care. A copy of the book found its way into Persia, through one Barzuyeh, a physician, who had made a journey to India for the purpose of obtaining it. This took place in the reign of Khusrû Nushirewan.

Tradition generally says that the book is of Indian origin, and the Arab historian Masoudi as well as the Persian author Firdusi confirm this view. The book of fables as it stands now does not represent the original series, for many stories have been added to it. These crept in through the Pehlevi translation of the book. The most important Arabic version was made from the Pehlevi into Arabic by Abdullâh ibn al-Mukaffa', about the middle of the eighth century, and to it the translator added a preface. A Greek version was made by Simeon Seth about the end of the ninth century. This translator frequently altered the Arabic names and inserted passages. Of the Hebrew recension of 'Kalilah' De Sacy has given abundant and minute particulars in 'Notices et Extraits des Manuscrits,' vol. ix. (see also J. Derenbourg, 'Deux Versions Hébraïques du Livre de Kalilah et Dimnah,' Paris, 1881); and an account of all the Persian translations may be found in 'Kalila et Dimna,' by De Sacy, Paris, 1816, pp. 52, 53.

And this brings us to the version in Syriac. The oldest Syriac version, 'Kalilag wê-Damnag,' appeared about the sixth century of our era. Gustav Bickell edited this in 1876, under the title of 'Alte Syrische Uebersetzung des Indischen Fürstenspiegels,' and most valuable notes were added by Theodor Benfey. The recension edited by Dr. Wright is the second translation that was made into Syriac, and is evidently the work of a Christian priest well acquainted with Arabic, but who was not so much at ease in his use of Syriac. The work was executed about the tenth or eleventh cen-

tury of our era. It is beyond the space at our disposal to give an account of the contents of each of the stories. The scholar is referred to the book itself, and the general reader to Knatchbull's 'Fables of Bidpai,' Oxford, 1819; but in a few months we hope to see Mr. Keith Falconer's translation, of which Dr. Wright speaks in his preface. The Syriac scholar should look upon Dr. Wright's accurate and scholarly book with gratitude, for it is a splendid addition to printed Syriac literature. His notes and corrections are, of course, most excellent, and the glossary which he gives enhances the value of the work greatly. At present the only Syriac lexicon that is really available is that of Edmund Castle, and such a list of rare and uncommon words as Dr. Wright gives is absolutely necessary for the reader who is unable to consult Bar Ali or Bar Bahlul, and for whom Dr. Payne Smith's 'Thesaurus' is an unfinished work. Dr. Wright has laid every Orientalist and lover of ancient literature under obligations to him for having given to the world a version of the fables which have fascinated and charmed the vivid imaginations of the children of the East for two thousand years. That there are but few books of general literature in Syriac has been a subject of complaint for many years, and this is, perhaps, the reason why it has not been more generally studied. It is, however, to be hoped that more students will be drawn to study it now they have such a very interesting book to work upon, and may they do for other Syriac works what Wright, Nöldeke, Guidi, De Sacy, and Derenbourg have done for Bidpai!

*John Greenleaf Whittier: a Biography.* By Francis H. Underwood. (Sampson Low & Co.)

MR. UNDERWOOD comes to his task with evident love of it. Like other biographers, he dwells at quite unnecessary length on his hero's remote ancestors. If writers would only realize how little interest the public feels in the forgotten forefathers of a remarkable man, they would spare themselves and their readers much weariness. Mr. Underwood, however, if ever elaborate, marshals before his readers all the leading events of Mr. Whittier's life, so that, thanks to him, admirers of the poet will be able to trace him through his years of noble toil from the time when Burns opened to him, as a boy, the life poetic to the birthday when he received from his friends and brothers and sisters in art an ovation of an unusually flattering character. Mr. Underwood's well-intentioned effort cannot be considered completely successful, because it lacks those strong and vivid touches with which the skilful novelist lends life to his fictitious creations—touches which may be employed also with the greatest effect in giving saliency to a real narrative. We know everything about Mr. Whittier that we could desire to know except that intimate individuality which sympathetic imagination penetrates and unfolds. However, this want is somewhat made up for by extracts from the poet's own letters and by the republication of an article by Nora Perry, which abounds in those delightful so-called trivialities which are of the greatest importance



if we really want to know what a man is like in every-day life.

John Greenleaf Whittier is, we learn from Mr. Underwood's volume, the descendant of Thomas Whittier, who emigrated from Southampton (England) in 1638, and settled in Salisbury (America), on the north shore of the Merrimac river, removing in 1648 to Haverhill. John Whittier, the father of the poet, was born November 22nd, 1760. He married Abigail, daughter of Joseph Hussey, of Somersworth (now Rollinsford), New Hampshire, and died in June, 1832. Abigail was a descendant of the Husseys of Boston in Lincolnshire, a family which there enjoyed considerable social distinction, and had, if report may be trusted, intermarried with the Kymes, one of the oldest houses in the same county. It is stated also in a letter by Mr. William Batchelder Greene, quoted in this volume, that Daniel Webster, John Greenleaf Whittier, and the writer of the letter were related by Batchelder blood. The poet was born December 17th, 1807. His boyhood was devoted alternately to labour on his father's farm and to the acquisition of such education as then lay within the family means.

All the world knows there was Quaker blood in his family, and Mr. Whittier was brought up in the tenets of that persuasion, to which he has ever adhered, though, perhaps, with a yet wider faith in the Divine mercy than many of Penn's followers would have approved. Mrs. Harriet M. Pitman, of Somerville, Mass., writes of him as "a very handsome, distinguished-looking young man." "His eyes," she adds, "were remarkably beautiful. He was tall, slight, and very erect: a bashful youth, but *never awkward*."

The chance possession of a volume of Burns seems to have been one of the first influences that developed the poetic faculty in Mr. Whittier. The earliest of his poems to find its way into print is little more than a paraphrase of Scripture; the lines were published in a newspaper established in the neighbourhood by Garrison, and led to a visit from the latter to the delighted young poet. How honourably the two men were afterwards connected in the anti-slavery movement is widely known. To this movement Whittier, soon after making Garrison's acquaintance, devoted his pen, both in prose and verse. It is difficult to overrate the influence which his fervid outpourings in the latter form exerted for the cause of the abolitionists. Nor, though a man of peace, did he ever hesitate to incur danger in the propagation of opinions then unpopular. One of his perils in connexion with George Thompson, the well-known English abolitionist, is thus related:—

"George Thompson, who could say with Paul that he was 'in perils oft,' had narrowly escaped from a mob in Salem, and was secreted by Whittier in East Haverhill for two weeks. Thinking themselves secure because personally unknown, the two friends drove to Plymouth, N. H., to visit Nathaniel P. Rogers, a prominent abolitionist. On their way they stopped for the night in Concord at the house of George Kent, who was a brother-in-law of Rogers. After they had gone on their way, Kent attempted to make preparations for an anti-slavery meeting to be held when they should return. There was a furious excitement, and neither church, chapel, nor hall could be hired for the purpose. On

their arrival Whittier walked out with a friend in the twilight, leaving Thompson in the house, and soon found himself and friend surrounded by a mob of several hundred persons, who assailed them with stones and bruised them somewhat severely. They took refuge in the house of Col. Kent, who, though not an abolitionist, protected them and baffled the mob. From thence Whittier made his way with some difficulty to George Kent's, where Thompson was. The mob soon surrounded the house and demanded that Thompson and 'the Quaker' should be given up. Through a clever stratagem the mob was decoyed away for a while, but, soon discovering the trick, it returned, reinforced with muskets and a cannon, and threatened to blow up the house if the abolitionists were not surrendered. A small company of anti-slavery men and women had met that evening at George Kent's, among whom were two nieces of Daniel Webster, daughters of his brother Ezekiel. All agreed that the lives of Whittier and Thompson were in danger, and advised that an effort should be made to escape. The mob filled the street, a short distance below the gate leading to Kent's house. A horse was quietly harnessed in the stable, and was led out with the vehicle under the shadow of the house, where Whittier and Thompson stood ready. It was bright moonlight, and they could see the gun-barrels gleaming in the street below them. The gate was suddenly opened, the horse was started at a furious gallop, and the two friends drove off amidst the yells and shots of the infuriated crowd. They left the city by way of Hooksett Bridge, the other avenues being guarded, and hurried in the direction of Haverhill. In the morning they stopped to refresh themselves and their tired horse. While at breakfast they found that 'ill news travels fast,' and gets worse as it goes; for the landlord told them that there had been an abolition meeting at Haverhill the night before, and that George Thompson, the Englishman, and a young Quaker named Whittier, who had brought him, were both so roughly handled that they would never wish to talk abolition again. When the guests were about to leave, Whittier, just as he was stepping into the carriage, said to the landlord, 'My name is Whittier, and this is George Thompson.' The man opened his eyes and mouth with wonder as they drove away."

In general, however, Mr. Whittier's life offers little that is remarkable in the way of incident. In literature he pursued the quiet tenor of his way, from his first connexion with Garrison's *Free Press* and the *Haverhill Gazette*, of which latter he became editor, until, after relations with various journals, he became one of the staff of the *Atlantic Monthly*. By this time his contributions—many of them burning protests against slavery—in various periodicals had won him permanent fame as a poet. We agree with his biographer that, stirring as are many of his poetical appeals in favour of abolition, this series, with some exceptions, is more distinguished by passionate rhetoric than by imagination, and that the noblest of his poetical efforts must be sought in lays unweaved by the fierceness of the great American controversy.

We have meanwhile interesting glimpses of his sister Elizabeth, some of whose poems were inserted by Mr. Whittier in 'Hazel Blossoms.' We also come upon a romantic story concerning Mercy Hussey, Whittier's maiden aunt, who one evening saw the figure of her betrothed, who had been absent, ride up to the porch of the house and pass by. She was suddenly thrilled by the recollection that she had heard no sound of the horse's hoofs; she at length received a letter

in a strange hand informing her that her lover had died at the very hour of her vision.

It is pleasant to read of the deserved honours paid to Mr. Whittier on his seventieth birthday at the Hotel Brunswick, Boston. Emerson, Longfellow, Holmes, Howells, and Charles Dudley Warner were present, and vied in the warmth of their tributes to the guest of the evening. At the same date a special Whittier number of the Boston *Literary World* was issued, to which Longfellow, Holmes, Bayard Taylor, Stedman, Mrs. Child, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, and others were poetical contributors. Mr. W. C. Bryant sent a greeting in prose. That this homage was amply deserved by a poet who has done so much as Mr. Whittier to advance the material interests of his fellow men and to set before them the purest ideals of conduct none will gainsay.

By way of relief to a somewhat serious narrative, and also as a valuable warning to scandal-mongers, we quote the following story "from a Western periodical, purporting to have been written by a well-informed correspondent in New York," and also the comments made upon it in this volume:—

"How Thackeray hugged Whittier."

"Now that I am talking of literary men, I want to repeat a good story which was told me the other day of the little quarrel which John G. Whittier had with Thackeray, the great English novelist. Whittier, as you know, is very reserved, and the story comes through a friend of his brother for the first time to the public. When Mr. Whittier was in London many years ago, he was made a lion by the literary people of the metropolis. The father of Pendennis and Becky Sharp was prominent among his entertainers, and among other things he honoured him by a dinner at his club. Whittier and Thackeray went together in Thackeray's carriage to the club rooms. At the dinner much wine was drunk, as is the custom at all such feasts in England. Thackeray seemed to have no limit in his capacity in this direction, and drank bottle after bottle apparently without being in the least affected by it. He was as witty and clear-headed as though he had been taking nothing but soda. Whittier was temperate, and drank but little. As morning crept on, however, and the feast ended, Thackeray succumbed, and, on leaving, his valet had to carry him to the carriage. On the way home he became maudlin, and threw his arms around Whittier's neck, vowing eternal friendship. In short, he acted so that Whittier grew thoroughly disgusted and left, resolving to have nothing more to do with Thackeray."

"It is sad to think of Thackeray as such a toper; but what has the ordinary reader to say concerning a circumstantial account like this,—and by one with such an evident knowledge of the customs of London clubs? It is 'from a friend of Whittier's brother,' too, and so is authentic. If Thackeray had been helped into his carriage by his 'valet,' that, of course, was proof positive. And to be hugged by a great strapping Englishman in a maudlin and slobbery way! No wonder the staid Quaker resolved to have nothing more to do with him. The more, because Whittier drinks no wine, and never did, having been all his life a total abstainer. He is also averse to late hours and club dinners, and eats (sparingly) at mid-day as his ancestors did. One is quite sure he was never out of his bed 'when morning crept on.' He has always been averse, likewise, to playing the lion, even in our small city of Boston; and has generally fled from any public demonstration. There is a further difficulty. He could not well have dined at a swell club in London with Thackeray, because he was never in that city, and never

crossed the Atlantic. Finally, he lately assured the present writer that he had never 'met' Thackeray anywhere, and had never even seen him. So the story vanishes like a guilty ghost. Of such trustworthy materials are many biographies composed."

From Nora Perry's narrative we take the following incident:—

"At rather a noted gathering, a lady who was a great admirer of his poems sought an introduction to him. An impulsive and emotional person, she was so carried away by the unexpected delight of the moment,—the honor and pleasure of meeting and speaking with the poet whose books she had read and revered so long, that, at the first sentence, when giving way to her emotional tendencies she attempted to put this delight into words, she broke down completely, and wept. Mr. Whittier stood dumb, receiving the tearful words like a gentle martyr. He no doubt appreciated to the full the affectionate yet reverential admiration that drew forth this display of emotion, but he had been made the centre of a scene, and this was embarrassing and painful to him. At the first note of agitation after the introduction, I had basely betaken myself out of the immediate range of this scene. When it was over I returned, to be greeted with a quizzical glance from Mr. Whittier's dark, penetrating eyes, and the remark, 'Thee could run away, but I had to stay.'"

The same writer reproduces from a friend's album these lines, which show that Mr. Whittier, when inclined to be sportive, can frolic in verse gracefully enough:—

Ah, ladies, you love to levy a tax  
On my poor little paper parcel of fame;  
Yet strange it seems that among you all  
No one is willing to take my name—  
To write and rewrite till the angels pity her,  
The weariful words,

Thine truly, Whittier.

Mr. Whittier's name will always stand high in the rank of American poets. If he lacks something of Longfellow's grace, Longfellow, on the other hand, has none of his fire; and if he is less stately than Bryant he is much more spontaneous. A writer who can be pure, yet not cold, religious, yet not didactic, who is swift of thought and sure of touch, claims—what he has so largely received—respect and admiration.

*Parliamentary Procedure and Practice in the Dominion of Canada.* By J. G. Bourinot, Clerk of the House of Commons of Canada. (Montreal, Dawson Brothers.)

MINISTERIAL responsibility to the representatives of the people, the basis of constitutional government, was among our colonies first established in Canada; it is, therefore, highly appropriate that the Canadian should be the first of the colonial parliaments to receive a text-book on its practice comparable in aim and in result to Sir T. Erskine May's well-known treatise on our parliamentary laws.

Mr. Bourinot's position affords him experience in the working of the parliamentary system; he brings to his task unstinted labour and research, and he possesses that judicial faculty without which experience and information would be of no avail. Such a work as that which he attempts cannot be a mere explanation of rules of procedure. A constant struggle exists in a legislative assembly instinct with living force between its prescribed laws and its daily action. New rules, new wants, new exigencies arise, which strain and twist its

established method of procedure in directions quite unforeseen by its founders. Such an assembly needs, in consequence, the guidance of those who are thoroughly versed not only in its traditions, but in its immediate wants, and who can keep in harmony with established principles each successive departure from the old lines of usage.

In this respect our House of Commons has been fortunate as regards itself and beneficial to its imitators. Regulated by rules not limited to a single source or belonging to a single era, but which arose as they were wanted, and were framed in accord with the wise old adage, "Tight will tear, but wide will wear," our parliamentary system, though in operation three hundred years ago, is, if loyally acted on, more effective now than it was during the sixteenth century. Nor as contributors to this result have the administrators of those rules, especially of late years, been found wanting. That the period of strife which during the last ten years has befallen the House of Commons has strengthened and not demoralized its procedure, is due to the guidance of Speakers capable of keeping the House in harmony, not only with its ancient ways, but with the instincts of the present hour, and to the tact and learning of Sir T. Erskine May. Each edition of his treatise testifies to a progressive advance in the business method of the House of Commons.

This circumstance has not escaped Mr. Bourinot's attention. He notices the recent extinction of an indefensible parliamentary usage, which has been accomplished by the gradual application of a judicious principle. According to that usage, any motion, whatever was its object, might be met by any form of amendment, however irrelevant to the tenor of that motion. This usage, even more venerable than the Speaker's wig, was affirmed by a most able select committee not fifty years ago, which asserted that "it is the undoubted privilege of any member of the House to interpose any amendment that he may think fit, even without notice, upon any occasion whatever."

Nor did this privilege remain unused. An apt illustration of its working can be given which occurred during the session of 1831. Sir C. Wetherell, whose parliamentary eccentricities are not yet wholly forgotten, was absent from the House when his name was called to move a motion to enforce the punishment of the rioters who during the Reform agitation of October, 1831, fired Nottingham Castle. He had apparently lost his opportunity; when he returned to his place a debate was in progress on the law of parish and select vestries. But he was not to be balked; he proposed his motion as an amendment to the motion he found under discussion, despite the Speaker's protestations and the obvious absurdity of diverting the attention of the House from our parochial system to the destruction of Nottingham Castle. Such a course is now impossible to any future Sir C. Wetherell. By a series of decisions, based on such powers as the rules of the House conferred upon them, the Speakers have gradually tightened the procedure regarding amendments, until Sir T. Erskine May has been able, in the last edition of his treatise, to assert decisively

that "an amendment should be relevant to the question to which it is proposed to be made."

As the promise made nearly a century ago to the Canadian colonies, that their polity should be "an image and transcript of the British Constitution," has been honourably fulfilled, the Canadian Legislatures have adopted with loyal fidelity the procedure of the House of Commons. Mr. Bourinot's book is not, however, merely a repetition of Sir T. Erskine May's treatise. Time and circumstance have wrought their inevitable effect. Marked divergences have arisen between the Canadian and our parliamentary practice. Amendments are not proposed from the chair at Ottawa in the somewhat cumbrous but logical form that we have received from the Elizabethan Parliaments. What may be termed the popular practice is followed, by which the amendment is taken first, before the motion on which it is moved. A Canadian legislator also is entitled, during the debate upon a motion which he has moved, to rise up and move the previous question upon his own motion—a singular infraction of that universal rule which forbids more than one speech upon each question. Such a course would be peremptorily stopped in Westminster, though from a Canadian point of view it is not so indefensible as it seems to us.

It is by the full consideration devoted to the principle and object involved in this and other departures from our parliamentary practice that Mr. Bourinot has given to his book an application extending beyond its more immediate intention. Not Canadians only, but all charged with the future of representative government, conducted on what may be termed the old English method, will be glad to examine the modifications in that system which have seemed expedient to the Canadian legislators. And Mr. Bourinot accordingly will find readers of his pages not only here and among his own people, but in that portion of Greater Britain that is encircled by the Southern Seas.

*An Old Testament Commentary for English Readers.* By Various Writers. Edited by C. J. Ellicott, D.D. 5 vols. (Cassell & Co.)

In a characteristic preface the Bishop of Gloucester states that this commentary is designed for that class of readers who believe that the Holy Scriptures not only contain, but are God's word, and that each member of the company "knows on Whom and in What he has trusted, and is persuaded that heavenly truth is present in every part and portion." A contradiction which is admitted in vol. iii., p. 304, clashes with the bishop's assertion, as does also the precept given by Moses in Numbers xxxi. 17, 18. The preface leads the reader to expect an apologetic tendency, and such bias is apparent.

It is not possible that twenty-two orthodox contributors could work together without producing many good expositions of chapters and verses. Nor can it be doubted that they are actuated by the love of truth and anxious to extract it from the pages of inspiration. The reader



will find just remarks, and learn to appreciate more highly the ancient records of the Hebrews. But perfect unity cannot be predicated of the work; for, to take one example, the books called Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah are said to have proceeded from their common editor Ezra, only a very few additions being left for aftertimes (vol. iii. p. 445); which is directly opposed to a statement in the introduction to the Chronicles that the three originally constituted a single great history, composed on a uniform plan by one author.

The introductions to the several books are generally of inferior quality, owing to imperfect acquaintance with the results at which the best scholars have arrived, or inability to apprehend the genius of the records in question, or the incompatibility of right statements with the principles on which the work is based. Whatever the cause, a large accumulation of useless and misleading materials is the result. It is unfortunate that incompetent hands should have been entrusted with a difficult task, especially so in relation to leading parts of the Old Testament. The exceptions are Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Solomon's Song, Chronicles, 2 Kings, Jonah, Judges, and Ezekiel, which show a fair knowledge of these books. We can commend the commentators on the Psalms, Chronicles, 2 Kings, Ezekiel, and Hosea for the good work they have produced. The expositor of Jonah refrains from asserting that a great fish literally swallowed Jonah and vomited him again. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ruth are treated in a way below mediocrity.

Specimens of good notes appear in Judges xi. 30-40, respecting Jephthah's vow; in Judges v. 24, respecting Jael; in Psalm ii. 12, where the rendering "Kiss the son" is rightly rejected, but where the renderings of Ewald and Hupfeld are both given incorrectly; and in Psalm cx., which is said to be Maccabean. There is a good excursus on Ezekiel xl.-xlviii. Erroneous notes are frequent, such as at Genesis iv. 1, "I have gotten a man, even Jehovah"; Isaiah lii. 15; Ecclesiastes xii. 13; Daniel ix. 25; Micah v. 2; Haggai ii. 5. At Genesis v. 5 an attempt is made to show the probability of the long lives assigned to the antediluvian patriarchs, the commentator being apparently unacquainted with the conclusive paper of Prof. Owen in *Fraser's Magazine*. The contributor who proclaims it as a certain fact that the Pentateuch is an organic whole, the work of Moses up to the end of Deuteronomy xxxii., is more dogmatic than scholarly.

Examples of omission are not few. In regard to the peculiar chapters of Leviticus, xviii.-xxiii., which Graf refers to Ezekiel's authorship, not a word is said. The same remark applies to the treatment of Joel, whose late date is asserted by Hilgenfeld and others on insufficient grounds. The corruption of Ezekiel's text also receives no particular notice, and the true rendering of Job xxix. 18, "I shall multiply my days as the phoenix," is passed over. There are not only omissions, but apparent evasions. The commentator on Leviticus writes:—

"As I do not believe that the book of Leviticus, in its present form, was written by Moses, and as it is against the plan of this commentary

to enter at this place into a discussion on this question, which has nothing whatever to do with the inspiration of the book, I thought that I should best serve the student of Holy Writ by showing him how the laws here enacted were administered during the second Temple."

The note on Psalm cix. 7 softens and evades the true sense given in the Authorized Version by presenting a translation inconsistent with the original. In the concluding paragraph of the introduction to the Psalms, on the imprecations they contain, the commentator balances and minimizes. At the first verse of Genesis xvii. the expositor argues from the name of Jehovah without alluding to the fact that "Elohim" was altered into it, the chapter being Elohistic.

The Hebrew scholarship exhibited by the contributors can scarcely be called accurate or profound. In Genesis iv. 8 the rendering "And Cain told it unto Abel his brother" is pronounced impossible, though it is perfectly good and right. In the same book, at xxxiv. 29, and at Numbers xxxi. 17, 18, the commentator asserts that the translation of *taf* by "little ones" is erroneous, though it is correct in both cases. It is hazardous to contradict Gesenius. In the supplement to Balaam's prophecies (Numbers xxiv. 21, 22), the rendering is offered, "For surely the Kenite shall not be destroyed until Asshur shall carry thee into captivity," which is contrary to the Hebrew. In Jeremiah xvii. 11 it is proposed to render, with the LXX. and Vulgate, "As the partridge heaps up eggs and hath not laid them"; but the Hebrew means only "to sit upon," not "heap up"; and the Vulgate does not give the version for which it is here cited.

The work as a whole is unsatisfactory. Most of the contributions suggest the belief that the writers were not familiar with the criticism and interpretation of the Old Testament according to recent results, but that they sat down to study their portions for the first time. It is rather late to present to the acceptance of intelligent readers views that are justly considered antiquated. Doubtless the company laboured earnestly according to the lines prescribed. That the editor is satisfied with their performance appears from the bold assertion that it corresponds throughout to "the presumption and præjudicium" of heavenly truth being present "in every part and portion of Hebrew Scripture." But it is a mistake to suppose, as he is rash enough to say, that difficulties are fairly met. Many serious ones are unnoticed. Inconsistencies and incongruities are hidden, not purposely perhaps, but unconsciously. The intelligent reader will look in vain for a solution of the far-reaching statement of Ezekiel (xx. 26), where the burning of the firstborn by way of sacrifice is presupposed as existing in his time and called a thing not good, compared with Exodus xiii. 12, 13, where the added clause, "And all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem," modifies the objectionable ordinance. Was not the clause absent from the law in Ezekiel's time? In vain, too, will the same reader seek for an explanation of David's conduct in permitting human sacrifices by delivering up Saul's descendants to the men of Gibeon, if he knew the plain teaching of the Pentateuch, "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be

put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin." Were these particulars among such as the editor calls *left*, because "it did not appear that God had yet vouchsafed to us the means of doing more than modifying them, or reducing their gravity and magnitude"? They seem to disagree with the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch so boldly asserted in the first and second volumes.

*City of London Livery Companies' Commission. Report and Appendix. Vol. I. (Parliamentary Paper, 1884.)*

Owing to a singular want of directness the Commission established four years ago, which has just printed this first volume of report and evidence, does not name the bodies which are the object of its inquiries, nor is the City of London once specifically mentioned. Instead, reference is made to "all the Companies named in the second Report" of the Municipal Corporations Commissioners for England and Wales. And the paragraph of part i. of the present report which deals with that reference merely says that they "are 89 in number, 12 great companies, 77 minor companies," the name of London again not being mentioned, and no list of the 89 companies being given. Such omissions at the commencement of an exact historical inquiry are not encouraging.

The range of the inquiry directed is wide; the report therefore deals with it under three or four heads, which may be indicated as follow: 1, historical and general; 2, constitution and powers of the companies, with the freemen and liverymen; 3 and 4, officers and salaries, property, income, and expenditure; a fifth part supplies suggestions for reform. The volume also contains a mass of valuable evidence given by many gentlemen interested in all sides of the matter, representing not only the companies and their Irish tenants, but very largely those who wish for a change in the existing state of things; and bound up with this evidence are several documents of present or future historic value. Perhaps no inquiry of similar importance has ever brought forth such testimony to the confidence felt in a foregone conclusion as is shown by the appearance before the Commissioners of several educational bodies, eager to press a claim upon property that may hereafter be disposed of. By far the most interesting material collected by the Commissioners, and necessary, from an historical point of view, to the just understanding of the position of the companies, will be the returns made in answer to a set of queries carefully drawn up and issued to the officers of each company in London. Nearly every company has answered "with candour"; and it is to be hoped that these returns, many of them "admirably drafted," may be speedily given to the public, together with the reports (also promised) on the charities of the companies, drawn up since 1860 by the officers of the Charity Commission.

The Commissioners have taken much pains in consulting the best authorities on the early history of guilds, and if their secretary has not succeeded in throwing much new light on obscure matters, he has brought together

a body of useful information from various sources. It is satisfactory to those who believe in the spontaneous growth of the guilds in the Middle Ages to find that Mr. Freeman joins Bishop Stubbs in repudiating the notion of their descent in England from the Roman *collegia*. No traces of a guild-merchant or hanse have yet been found in London in the sense in which it is so often found conjoined in the corporation of other towns; and the most difficult problem in the history of guilds, the precise nature of their early connexion with the municipalities, receives little elucidation here. As regards the general characteristics of English guilds in the Middle Ages, a comprehensive sketch is given from the returns sent in by order of Parliament in 1388, in studying which, however, it is unfortunate that some errors have been made. The guilds certainly were not "reported upon" by a "Royal Commission" (p. 4), but, as is more truly pointed out in another place (p. 10), the writs ordering the returns having been sent to the sheriffs, the officers of the guilds sent in their information themselves; hence the great value of these returns. Again, the returns still extant, though remarkable for the absence of the London trade companies (with two exceptions), do contain those of at least eighteen or twenty London social guilds, three of which are printed in Mr. Toulmin Smith's volume. One is from the guild of St. Anthony, which seems to have been early connected with what afterwards became the Grocers' Company; another is the guild of Whitetowers. It is, therefore, a little confusing to speak of the "provincial guilds" as of a race apart, though it is stated that the guilds of "Norman London" were voluntary associations precisely similar to them. The truth is, we believe, that the distinction that needs to be kept in sight is that between social and craft guilds, as was done by the writs of 1388. For some accidental reason London is not the only place whose trade companies are missing among the returns; for example, for York and Bristol, in both of which these bodies were numerous and rich, we have none, although the writs ordering them for Yorkshire and the social writ for Bristol happen to be still preserved in the Record Office. The internal ordinances of these craft guilds show that they were self-regulating in the supervision of all matters relating to their art or mystery; that when they had made their rules they took them up to the municipal court to be put on record (just as in London they enrolled them at the Hustings Court, e.g., 'Liber Albus,' i. pp. 736, 737), presented their officers—wardens, searchers, supervisors, &c.—yearly to the mayor to be sworn, and submitted their differences to him and his court for arbitration. These characteristics also belonged to the London crafts in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, as is shown by many extracts in Riley's 'Memorials' (see particularly pp. 90, 118, 625). The companies of London, as the present report shows, in their early days differed from these in degree, not in kind. Developing riches, power, and privileges in consequence of their personal connexion with the corporation,\*

\* Of close personal identity, such as the mayors and aldermen being members of crafts, there is no doubt; but we should like to see a series of quotations from records in support of the assertion that "the head men of the guilds were generally aldermen of the corporation" in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

the companies, when they were incorporated about the fourteenth century, became, in the opinion of the Commissioners, a sort of "State department for the superintendence of the trade and manufactures of London." This term "State department" appears to be in no sense correct, and confounds the individual life of each company and the municipality. London was never England, as Paris is said to be France. To speak, too, of the properties of the various companies *en masse* as the "trust estate," "the great estate," is an historic mistake which the pages of the report itself prove to be unpardonable.

A brief separate portion of the report is devoted to "provincial and continental" guilds, meaning those of trade. Yet still a sad confusion exists in the mind of the writer between guilds, "monasteries, nunneries, or chauntries,"—we presume a remnant of the misunderstanding caused by the Act of Henry VIII. Very little is known of the story of the decadence and final extinction of the trade or craft guilds, once so numerous and important in English towns; their history follows that of commerce, with varying branches of which they rose and fell, budded out into new companies, or amalgamated, or died out. The Commissioners find that of the 150 guilds of this sort formerly flourishing in five towns, only two of any importance now exist, the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle and of Bristol. Their halls, almshouses, and estates (house property) were sold and they gradually disappeared, some few lingering in forgotten corners till near our own day (as at York). Mr. Froude has performed a service by supplying to the Commissioners a list, printed here, of the statutes on labour, trade, and manufactures passed between 1 Henry IV. (A.D. 1399) and the beginning of the seventeenth century. The information about the foreign guilds is chiefly confined to their fate and decay in modern times, and though slight is of considerable interest. We look forward to the communications which are promised from MM. Laveleye, Pigeonneau, and Levasseur. To say, however, that in Florence (among the cities of Italy) "craft guilds," properly speaking, never existed," leaves out of sight altogether the famous *arti maggiori* and *minori*. We may be allowed to add to the list of authorities the works of Schanz and Schmoller on German trade guilds, and the 'Livre des Métiers d'Etienne Boileau,' A.D. 1268, published in 1879 by the city of Paris—a collection of statutes of the Paris companies, forming an important parallel to those of London.

The sketch of the internal constitution of the companies contains many details of historic interest and ancient custom, which will be more fully understood when the returns are made public. The companies administer among them the great number of eleven hundred trusts, some as ancient as the fourteenth century, instituted for several purposes—as loans to begin business, portions to poor maids, relief of debtors, almshouses, &c.; some for the benefit of country places. "In early times persons from the provinces came to London to engage in business, and when they had amassed fortunes left legacies to their native places as well as to the guilds to which they belonged." The many foundations at Oxford and Cambridge in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the numerous

schools (nearly forty) supported by the companies, of which only three appear to date in the present century, attest the fact that they were at that time alive to the requirements of education, and that their recent efforts have precedents in their favour.

A few words must be said on the "Dissent Report," the authors of which understand the development of the companies out of the early guilds better than their opponents. They claim, however, that "their constitution was always aristocratic"—a somewhat inconsistent assertion. All agree that the real connexion with trade has long ceased. The "dissenters" also call attention to important facts relating to the estate in Ulster, which are borne out by the valuable volume of documents and history published by the "Irish Society," or body of the subscribing companies, in 1822.

We have said enough to show, in spite of shortcomings, the value of the labours of the Commissioners and of their indefatigable secretary Mr. H. D. Warr, to whose energy they are greatly indebted. A spirit of fairness appears to have guided the inquiry, which will call attention to much that was unknown or forgotten.

#### NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

*Lady Lowater's Companion.* By the Author of 'St. Olave's.' 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

*Eyre's Acquittal.* By Helen Mathers. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

*Couleur de Rose.* By Ulick J. Burke. 2 vols. (Sonnenschein & Co.)

*The Fate of Mansfield Humphreys.* By R. Grant White. (Boston, U.S., Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

*Diana.* Di Domenico Ciampoli. (Milan, Treves; London, Nutt.)

THOUGH Lady Lowater's companion is in herself a very pretty study for a cynic, our interest in the story told by the author of 'St. Olave's' is mainly centred in Lady Lowater herself. A proud woman, suffering from the unceasing consciousness of an early lapse from virtue and of the secret that her only son has no right to the title and possessions in which he has succeeded the bad husband who was not his father; living in daily terror of the revelation which is in the power of the hard man of business who manages her estate; galled by the pricks of conscience which daily urge her to a restitution which, for her son's sake, seems impossible, Lady Lowater is a terrible instance of the suffering which may co-exist with outwardly prosperous conditions. By a strange concatenation of circumstances, Mr. Anthony, the factor, marries a charming widow, who turns out to be an ex-kitchen-maid, dismissed in Sir Guy's time for undue familiarity with the master, and who, rashly thwarting Miss Pentwistle, the indefatigable companion, has her secret discovered by that lady in the most public manner at the moment when her daughter, Valence Dormer, is on the point of being offered the hand of the young baronet at the Court. The manipulation of incidents does much credit to the author. But the strength of the story lies in the almost painful elaboration of character, in the persons of the unhappy lady, who wins peace when, as she says, "life is over" for her, her gallant son having died



soldier-like, without having learnt to despise his mother; of Rock, the excellent parson, "perpetual curate" on less than a hundred a year; of Valence, above all, as true and pure a gentlewoman as her mother is a conventional "lady." The sound spirit which sends Valence, when she has discovered her family history, to tend, in his poor cottage, the closing days of her grandfather, the woodcutter, leads her in time to reward the manliness of Stephen Rock, in spite of his worldly and personal deficiencies. Two points are to be noted in the method of the book: good incisive dialogue—the conversations between the lady, whose key-note is that the "world is as hollow as a drum," and the companion, who thinks taraxacum sovereign for an inward wound, are capitally sustained—and that sympathetic use of outward surroundings which marks the observant student of human nature. The walk to the rock-seat, where through the trees a small glimpse of the sea may be obtained, that sea which has swallowed the lover and the son, is as pathetic as anything since we read about the Floss.

In 'Eyre's Acquittal' the explanation is given of a mystery left unsolved in one of the author's former novels. It turns out that the strange person "Eyre" killed his wife with his own hand while walking in his sleep. Another much more famous mystery in fiction was explained in the same way, but the whole story of 'The Moonstone' was put into one book, while Eyre's history stretches over two. It is satisfactory to know that he is now dead, although it ought in justice to be allowed that he has furnished a good deal of amusement. He is not quite so funny in this second part as he was in the first. His conduct at a certain funeral is, however, quite in keeping with his other actions. He brings his little baby daughter with him, having dressed her for the occasion himself: "She had a boa tied over her white pinafore, and wore a bonnet that certainly was never made for her, while a pair of her father's gauntleted gloves extended to her shoulders, and kept dry and warm the dimpled hands and arms beneath." He behaved pretty well on the whole: "The only sign of feeling he gave during the Burial Service was when he looked down at the child's feet, and for the first time observing that she wore shoes, snatched her up, and, having stripped them off, chafed her feet, then wrapped them and her in his cloak, and stood impassible as before." The funeral was that of a man who had been killed in the Crimea, and whose body Eyre had brought back to England. "With such incredible rapidity had Mr. Eyre brought him home," that the dead man's features had undergone no change! Certainly the author mixes the horrible and the ridiculous with wonderful success. Nor has she lost her gift of saying things which seem profound because they are only unintelligible. "Children," she says, "grow towards you, man and woman away from you." And somewhere else she observes that the only true love is the universal love. It is fair to say that the story of the former book is ingeniously recapitulated, so that readers of 'Eyre's Acquittal' who have not read the first part are at no great disadvantage.

Mr. Burke comes near to writing an

acceptable story. He has a lively and somewhat rollicking style, much good sense and knowledge of the world, and a keen appreciation for sport and rural life. His first chapters are promising, and the first volume does not quite destroy the illusion; but it must in candour be said that the working out of the plot is about as weak a piece of story-telling as it is possible to imagine. The life of Tom Gaythorne and his sister, rich young orphans on a fine country estate, and of their friend Cheriton Charters, is fairly good. For a moment we are reminded of the manner of Whyte Melville, or at least of the author of 'Lewis Arundel.' But no sooner does the villain swagger upon the stage and begin to develop his clumsy trade than the main charm of the story is gone, and an air of absolute unreality pervades it. The half-refined squire, his worldly but good-hearted sister, and the companion of their childhood, the amiable "Cherry," who impress the reader at the outset as very passable creations, deteriorate rapidly towards the end. If Mr. Burke could have kept his story up to the level of its first few chapters he would have done something much more satisfactory than 'Couleur de Rose.'

Mr. White is a clever man and very likely could write a good novel if he chose to try, but his present story is a mere vehicle for expressing his opinions about English society and about the English race in America, and consequently as a story it has little interest. Mr. White devotes the greater part of a long appendix to finding fault with English writers, who, he says, have misunderstood his country; but none of them has drawn a more gloomy picture of the United States than Mr. White gives in his book. Mr. White makes a rather bitter attack on Anthony Trollope, but he has not apparently taken the trouble to read 'The Duke's Children.' This is hardly fair.

Modern Italian writers seem determined to prove that the Arcady of poets and peasant story-tellers belongs to the realms of pure romance. Signor Ciampoli in 'Diana' has furnished a skilful, subtle, but in many respects far from agreeable sketch of the inmates of a remote village in the Abruzzi, where, if he is to be trusted, bad passions of every kind far outnumber the amiable ones, long supposed the peculiar privilege of dwellers in country regions. But the study, if not always pleasant or quite food for babes, is exceedingly clever, and deserves perusal, were it only for the true and vivid picture it furnishes of the mental and material condition of the Italian lower middle class, for it is of them rather than of peasants that the story treats.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*The Lost Tasmanian Race*, by Mr. James Bonwick (Sampson Low & Co.), is an epitome of an earlier work of the same author, 'The Last of the Tasmanians.' The writer's object is to excite compassion for other native races with which the spread of colonization has brought Europeans into contact; and he asks, "Are all dark skins to perish like the unhappy Tasmanian? Have we not, in our civilizing process, been more savage than the savages?" He sets before his readers a record of horrors. It must, however, in common justice, be observed that most of these atrocities were perpetrated by bushrangers, escaped convicts, who, defying law, lived for

months or years in the mountain fastnesses of the island. That these ruffians were capable of any crime is but too well known. It was not until feelings of revenge had led to their natural result in reprisals, not only on the wrongdoers, but on all white men, that either the Government or the settlers became involved. Throughout both the English and colonial authorities inculcated moderation and humanity, and many of the better class of colonists felt for the suffering natives. It cannot, however, be denied that when murders and outrages were of daily occurrence, when armed convicts were opposed to naked savages, many atrocities were committed on both sides. It were strange indeed if any other result could ensue. Such events can hardly again happen under English rule, because it is incredible that we should ever tolerate the abominations which arose from our penal establishments at the Antipodes. Proposals to establish somewhat similar settlements in the beautiful islands of the Pacific have recently been made by France. The miserable fate that will overtake their unhappy inhabitants when overwhelmed by a flood of the worst French criminals may form some excuse for the reproduction of these abominable details. We gather from our author's preface that this feeling has actuated him. His sympathy with the "dark skins," his philanthropy and benevolence, are as well known as his graphic power, and nowhere are they to be found more fully exemplified than in the present pages. He pathetically laments the total failure of all attempts to form settlements where everything that kindness and consideration could suggest was tried. It is some satisfaction to know that such efforts were made, but not one survives of a race distinct from all others in the world.

MR. HENRY HAWKES, in his *Recollections of John Pounds* (Williams & Norgate), tells the story of the Portsmouth cobbler who was the originator of ragged schools. The narrative is chiefly a statement of facts, and the rest of it is said to be "thoroughly in character with his spirit and doings." It would have been better to have left out the imaginative part of the work.

UNDER the title of *In the Land of Marvels* (Sonnenschein & Co.) Mr. E. Johnson has translated Vernaleken's excellent collection of 'Oesterreichische Kinder- und Hausmärchen.' That work, which appeared at Vienna in 1864, has long been well known to many comparers of folk-tales, but Mr. Johnson has done good service by rendering it accessible to the English public in general. The stories which it contains are good specimens of the class to which they belong, and they are specially interesting on account of the strong Slavonic influence to which they bear witness. Though told in German, they were collected in districts of which the inhabitants are, by race and speech, much more Slavonic than Teutonic, and they often bear a marked resemblance to the variants of the same tales which are found in Russia and Servia.

*The Christian Legends* (Sonnenschein & Co.) translated by Mr. William Maccall from the German of K. E. von Bülow do not belong to the domain of folk-lore, though many of their number are founded on old popular traditions. These holy stories, we are told in the preface, must be read in a believing spirit. "They are not for the cold or sceptical understanding." Whether such tales as that of "Holy Mary of Egypt" are likely to tend to general edification may, perhaps, be doubted.

We have received from Messrs. Abenheim (Berlin) a collection of *Sagen aus der Mark Brandenburg*, collected by Herr Handtmann with a view to redeem that German province from the imputation often made that it is in antiquarian as well as in political life a parvenu. Herr Handtmann has clearly been industrious, but he does not give the sources of his tales, nor does he relate them in the language of the people,

and owing to these omissions they greatly lose their value as contributions to folk lore. Nor are they specially interesting in themselves; there is no aroma of poetry or romance about them. They either deal with war or with natural phenomena apprehended in the most prosaic and dry spirit. These stories will not heighten our estimation of Prussian native poetical power. The dates of most of them are also too modern to be interesting as contributions to the science of comparative mythology. They have, of course, analogies to well-known tales, but these are of no special interest or value.

*Anglo-Saxon Literature*, by John Earle (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), is almost a perfect model of a popular handbook. It is probable that so large an amount of information respecting Anglo-Saxon literature was never before presented in so small a compass. At the same time, the arrangement is so skilful and the style so attractive that the book does not at all appear to be overcrowded with matter, and it will probably be read through with enjoyment by many persons who never suspected that they could feel any interest in its subject. Prof. Earle regards the history of Anglo-Saxon literature as a part of the larger history of European culture, and the wider relations of the subject are constantly kept in sight. The illustrative specimens, which are given in the original and in translation, are numerous and well chosen, and the versions have the somewhat uncommon merit of being thoroughly readable. It would be difficult to mention any work of the same size which is either more instructive in itself or better adapted to excite in its readers a desire for a fuller knowledge of the subject of which it treats.

*The Barony of Ruthven of Freeland*. By J. H. Round. Reprinted from 'Collectanea Genealogica,' Part XIII. (Hazell, Watson & Viney.)—In this little brochure Mr. Round shows—as Riddell, the great authority on peerage law, had done conclusively more than fifty years ago—that the barony of Ruthven became extinct on the death of the second baron at the beginning of last century, and he criticizes in detail all the arguments that have been adduced at different times to bolster up the continued assumption of the title. It would be tedious to review this controversy, but the gist of the matter lies in a nutshell. The Ruthven patent was never recorded, and those who deny that the title is legally extinct are forced to assume "that the limitation was wider than to heirs of the body, and included heirs general, or gave a power of nomination."

*Petland Revisited*, by the Rev. J. G. Wood (Longmans & Co.), appears to be a sort of second edition of the author's 'Glimpses of Petland,' written some twenty years ago, with additional chapters giving the sequel to the history of some of his favourites. Such is the completion of the biography of the wonderful cat "Pret"; and the chapter on "Roughie" was originally headed "My Last Dog." Unconventional pets, such as the chameleon, the hedgehog, the coati-mondi, the monkey, &c., have five chapters devoted to them, and if some of the stories border on the marvellous, they will not on that account prove less attractive to the rising generation, for whom, we presume, this illustrated work is chiefly designed. In the preface the reader is told that this little book is written with a motive and conveys a moral, an arrangement against which children, if they detect it, generally rebel; but then they seldom read prefaces. The motive is obvious, and as regards the moral, anything in this volume worthy of the name the reader will have some difficulty in finding. It is a pleasant book of gossip about animals, with some rather stiff yarns, and nothing more.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

## ENGLISH.

## Theology.

- Barron's (Rev. H. C.) Vernal Readings on Book of Psalms, 12mo. 6/6.  
Butlin's (Rev. F.) Light from the Lowly, translated by Rev. W. McDonald, D.D., illustrated, 2 vols. 12mo. 5/6.  
Dupuis's (T. R.) Christianity in Daily Relations of Life, Six Sermons, 12mo. 2/6.  
Murray's (Ven. J. W.) Christian Vitality (The Donneilan Lectures, 1883-4), cr. 8vo. 3/6.

## Fine Art.

- Play, a Picture Book of Boys, Girls, and Babies, Pictures by E. Scannell, Verses by S. K. Cowan, M.A., 5/6 bds.  
Series of Character Sketches from Dickens, from Original Drawings by F. Barnard, Second Series, folio, 21/6.

## Poetry.

- Dante's Purgatorio, translated into Greek Verse by Musurus Pacha, 8vo. 12/6.  
Savage's (M. J.) Poems of Modern Thought, 3/6.

## History and Biography.

- Ashton's (J.) English Caricature and Satire on Napoleon I., illustrated, 2 vols. 8vo. 28/6.

## Geography and Travel.

- Baxter's (C. E.) Talofa, Letters from Foreign Parts, cr. 8vo. 4/6.  
Oxley's (W.) Egypt and the Wonders of the Land of the Pharaohs, cr. 8vo. 7/6.  
Reminiscences on the Road of Travellers and Travelling Half a Century Ago, by an Old Commercial, 12mo. 3/6 bds.

## Philology.

- German Classics, edited with English Notes by C. A. Buchheim: William Tell, School Edition, 12mo. 2/6 limp.  
Homer's Iliad, Books 1-12, with Introductory Notes, &c., by D. B. Monro, 12mo. 6/6.  
Latin Prose Exercises, based upon Caesar's Gallic War, with Notes, &c., by C. Bryans, 12mo. 2/6.  
Sallustii Crispi (C.) De Conjuratone Catalinae Liber, &c., ed. by W. W. Capes, 12mo. 4/6.  
Skeat's (Rev. W. W.) Supplement to First Edition of an Etymological Dictionary of English Language, 4to. 2/6.

## Science.

- Phillips's (J. A.) Treatise on Ore Deposits, illus., 8vo. 25/6.  
Treatise on Modern Horology in Theory and Practice, trans. by J. Tripplin and E. Rigg, illustrated, roy. 8vo. 42/6.

## General Literature.

- Barker's (J. M.) Mary Elwood, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/6.  
Cooper's (Mrs.) Heart Salvage by Sea and Land, 3 vols. 31/8.  
Hannan's (J.) Told in the Gloaming, or our Novena, and How we made it, 12mo. 2/6.  
Karoly's (A.) The Dilemmas of Labour and Education, 3/6.  
Lewald's (F.) Stella, from the German by B. Marshall, 2 vols. 4/6.  
Quads, for Authors, Editors, and Devils, edited by A. W. Tuer, midget folio, 2/6 vellum.  
Quads within Quads, 2 vols. in 1, demy 16mo. 7/6 vellum.  
Walsh's (J. H.) "Stonehenge" Modern Sportsman's Gun and Rifle, Vol. 2, 15/6.

## FOREIGN.

## Fine Art.

- Adamy (R.): Architektur auf Historischer u. Aesthetischer Grundlage, Vol. 2, Sect. 1, Part 2, 5m.

## Philosophy.

- Harpf (A.): Die Ethik d. Protagoras, 1m. 60.

## History.

- Bus (F. de): La Politique Contemporaine devant l'Histoire, 2 vols. 15fr.

## Philology.

- Cohn (L.): De Heracleide Milesio Grammatico, 4m.  
Ibn Abd Uselbia, hrsg. v. A. Müller, 2 parts, 50m.  
Niederdeutsche Denkmäler, hrsg. vom Verein f. Niederdeutsche Sprachforschg., Vol. 4, 5m.  
Schipper (J.): William Dunbar, sein Leben u. seine Gedichte, 7m.  
Xsengrimus, hrsg. v. E. Voigt, 8m.

## Bibliography.

- Kelchner (E.): Die Luther-Drucke der Stadt-Bibliothek zu Frankfurt am Main, 1518-1546, 4m.

## Science.

- Heer (O.): Nivale Flora der Schweiz, 4m.  
Klug (F.): Gesammelte Aufsätze üb. Blattwespen, 16m.  
Martius (C. F. P. von) u. Eichler (A. W.): Flora Brasiliensis, Part 93, 72m.  
Radde (G.): Ornitho Caucasia, Part 1, 3m.  
Stoll (O.): Ethnographie der Republik Guatemala, 6m.

## THE COVERDALE BIBLE OF 1535.

4, Trafalgar Square, July 21, 1884.

MR. ALDIS WRIGHT'S suggestion in last week's *Athenæum*, so far as I am able to understand it, appears to be briefly this—that my "theory" that Jacob van Meteren (in producing at Antwerp the English Bible of 1535, probably translated by himself) employed Miles Coverdale to correct the press for him, amounts to the reduction of Coverdale from the rank of translator to the comparatively humble position of proof-reader; and therefore he very properly adds that it is desirable to know upon what evidence this is done, other than the paragraph I first produced from the Dutch life of Emanuel van Meteren.

I submit that this is hardly a fair summary of my published statements with regard to Coverdale and the production of our first English Bible by or for Jacob van Meteren. I

have, I think, never dwarfed Coverdale to a mere proof-reader, though I confess that I do not apply to him the elastic term "translator," except, perhaps, in the very free sense in which the revisers of the 1611 Bible applied it to themselves. I yield to no one in respect for, and admiration of, Coverdale. As I wrote seven years ago in the 'Caxton Catalogue,' so I write now: "All honour to Miles Coverdale, the learned scholar, the modest self-sacrificing student, the earnest simple-hearted Christian, who was unquestionably the best proof-reader and corrector of his age; to whom, perhaps, more than any other one man of his time, William Tyndale himself not excepted, the English language owes a debt of gratitude for its clearness, pointedness, and simplicity. That he left in this our first English Bible some few foreignisms, and some inverted English [evident marks of a translation by a foreigner], is not surprising when we find that the dozen corps of revisers since have not seen fit or been able to exclude them." No reviser of English Bibles, before or since Coverdale, has, I think, surpassed him in high editorial qualities. What precisely he did for Van Meteren in 1534-35 at Antwerp, he did for Grafton and Whitchurch in Paris in 1537-38 on the "Great Bible" of 1539. Yet who calls Coverdale the translator of that Bible!

All our reverend historians of the English Bible for the last one hundred and fifty years have drawn so largely on "theory" and conjecture for their account of Coverdale, that I thought it a good opportunity in the 'Caxton Catalogue' of 1877 to set forth some results of my twenty years' study on the profane history of our first English Bible. Accordingly I stated that it was printed at Antwerp by or for Jacob van Meteren. If credited this simplifies matters very much, as it shuts off all discussion about other towns and other printers. Next came up the question of the translator into English, and I came to the conclusion that he certainly was not Coverdale, but might probably be Van Meteren himself. These two statements were a very great departure from all the historians. The translation problem was worked out something in this way. Coverdale himself states that he first went abroad on this enterprise in 1534, and the Bible itself states on the last leaf that the printing of it was finished the 4th of October, 1535. The year 1534 began on the 25th day of March. Therefore, if Coverdale, when he was "instantly required," presented himself immediately, he had just one year, six months, and nine days to see the Bible through the press. But did he use the whole of 1534? That short time was manifestly not enough for the translation as well as the necessary revision, reading, and proof-reading. Besides, he distinctly states that he took up the work already begun by others, "which were not only of ripe knowledge, but would also with all their hartes have performed that they beganne eyf they had not had impediment." Therefore the labour was not wholly by Coverdale, as he only finished what others had begun. Under the weight of these facts, and finding no evidence whatever that he had translated a line himself before 1534, I came to the conclusion that he clearly was not the original translator; and then, on the strength of the statements of Ruytynck that Van Meteren was a great linguist, had been taught printing, and was zealously engaged in producing the English Bible, I ventured to throw out the probability that the translation was done prior to 1534 by Van Meteren himself. Up to this time my continued study of the subject rather increases than diminishes this probability.

HENRY STEVENS, of Vermont.

## TREVISIA AND BATMAN VPON BARTHOLOME.

THE very acute and almost always accurate Cotgrave, and Batman vpon (i.e., his additions to and his supposed translation of) Bartholomew Glantvyle, 1582, are two books most useful to



the student of Shakspeare, the latter work giving him an almost encyclopædic insight both into the knowledge of that day and into those opinions that passed for knowledge. Hence I regret to find, not merely that "St. Batman, professeur in Divinitie," was not the translator of the book, but that he was a copier of the translation made by John Trevisa in 1397, while, so far as I can judge, he would conceal his indebtedness.

A short time back I inquired in *Notes and Queries* as to the pluralizations of certain adjectives in Batman's "Prologue of the Translator," and, rebuked for my ignorance by the learned Prof. W. W. Skeat, admitted it, but would have had it excused. There was, however, a second reason for my inquiry: I could not understand how it was that such pluralizations only occurred in this "Prologue," and, so far as I have observed, in two other, as it were casual, examples in the first book, out of a volume of over 867 pages. The other day this question, so far as Batman is concerned, resolved itself. Looking into Trevisa, I found that Batman's "Prologue of the Translator" was Trevisa's prologue, the whole folio page of two columns having been appropriated bodily, only a word here and there having been altered so as to fit a later Elizabethan usage or style, or make a clause suit the Batmannian sense of harmony. Thus "ben" is altered to "be" or "are"—"clere and crafty" to "cleere and subtil"; a couple of words are transposed to another part of the sentence, and the like; while "Endeth the Prologue" becomes "Finis Prologi."

Contrariwise, however, that we may not decrease for the moment and without further proof Batman's fame as the exponent of Bartholome, it may be mentioned that when, at the close of the work, bk. xix. c. 149, he takes a column from Trevisa, he heads it "A Conclusion of this Worke by the First Translator." Neither here, however, nor in his closing bibliographical paragraph, nor anywhere else, does he give his name. Once, indeed, I thought he had done so, for at the end of c. 16, bk. iii. is a sentence of five lines headed TREVISA. My belief only lasted, however, until I had turned to Trevisa himself, for there I found the same sentence headed with the same capitals.

This absence of Trevisa's name as that of the former translator, the pilfered prologue, and Batman's glossary of 145 obsolete words—for he was not a Spenser, but the interpreter in English of a mediæval Latin treatise,—these things awakened my suspicions, and further examination confirmed them. The short first book and—taking them, except occasionally, at random—sundry parts of other books were collated, and everywhere with the same result. Setting aside his "Additions," the Batman vpon Bartholome is Trevisa's translation, here and there altered and modernized as above. Further details on these points are therefore unnecessary, though it may be noticed *en passant* that the Batman glossary—noted and Trevisian word "nesh" is on one occasion at least changed in the Batman text into its modern synonyme "soft." Also I would note that such chance bits as one finds in Bartholome, under "Septuagesima," &c., which speak of Roman Catholic ritual, or refer to Roman Catholic authorities or doctrines, are, as one might expect, omitted. But these things excepted—and they are very small and rare—Batman's translation is Trevisa's translation.

The first book, "On the Trinity," shows more particularly Batman's obligations to Trevisa, and how he has followed him rather than Bartholome. In this last-named writer the book occupies over eleven folio columns. In Trevisa and Batman it occupies but five; that is, in theirs is hardly more than half as long. Nor is it that the subject has been condensed. Bartholome after a few words of invocation begins with a somewhat long quotation from Pope Innocent III. Trevisa does not quote

him, and gives only a very small part of his statements. Afterwards Bartholome quotes Damascenus, the blessed Dionysius, and others, but Trevisa refers to none of these. So Bartholome enters into some scholastic distinctions as to the names and appellatives of the Deity, and into the ten different names given him by the Jews, and into the names or attributes given to Christ and to the Holy Ghost in the Bible. Trevisa gives a somewhat different scholastic division, and treats much more shortly of these, and of the names and appellatives of the Father and Holy Ghost; and instead of saying, like Bartholome, that the Deity was humanly spoken of as possessing the figure, properties, and attributes of a man, he speaks at length of Christ as God-man born of a Virgin, and as, except in being sinless, possessing all our attributes, as shown by examples given, and as to come a second time to judge the world. In fact, the treatise of Bartholome and that of Trevisa and Batman, though in some degree allied, are two separate treatises by different writers.

Considering that Trevisa wrote in 1397, about thirty or forty years only after Bartholome, and that he has thus varied for the first and only time from his author's text, it seems reasonable to suppose that he was one who had become more or less imbued with the doctrines of Wicliffe, for the teachings of that reformer had so spread in England that the favourers of them appealed in 1395 to Parliament. Whether, however, my reader accepts this view or not, the facts are as I have stated, and I now add this final fact, that, as before stated, Batman follows Trevisa point by point and—with such exceptions as are of the kind before noticed—word for word, neither adding nor diminishing beyond the unnecessary addition of "the Holy Church [or Congregation]."

It is right to state that Batman never sets himself forward as the translator. Indeed, if his bibliographic paragraph at the end of his work be intently read after collation of his work with Trevisa's, it will be noticed that he carefully avoids setting forth any such pretension. First he speaks of "Bartlemy," then of the translation of his work thirty-seven years afterwards, then of the printing of this translation in 1471 and in 1535, adding, "And last of all augmented and enlarged, as appeareth, by me Stephan Batman, professeur in Divinitie, and printed," &c. But I cannot acquit him of an endeavour to entrap his reader into the belief that he had made the present translation. His title-page has no mention of any previous translator; it speaks merely of Bartholome and of Batman "vpon" him. So his dedication speaks only of being made able through the grace of God "to renew and finish an olde auncient booke containing the properties of sundrie things," &c., that is, as the ordinary reader is forced to understand it, the book "De Proprietatibus Rerum." Nor does his epistle "To the Reader" lead one to suppose other than that he, Batman, had translated and otherwise enlarged his author. Nor is there a word as to "The Prologue of the Translator" to lead one to suppose that this was pilfered, or that the translator was any other than Batman, more especially as on f. 426 he gives "A Conclusion of this Worke by the First Translator," words which also imply that he was the second translator. So far as is known to me, no one up to the present time has stated that Batman is but the modernizer of Trevisa and the adder to him. It may be to my discredit, but I had more than once read his final bibliographic paragraph, and yet, swayed by his title and by the rest of his preliminary matter as given above, had never read it as telling me that Batman was Trevisa augmented and enlarged until my suspicions were aroused by finding that the "Prologues" were identical.

BR. NICHOLSON, M.D.

#### THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE AT WOKING.

THE arrangements for opening this institute have been completed this week. The resident superintendent has been installed; Mohammedan, Hindu, Jain, and Christian students from the East have taken up their abode at the institute, and further arrivals are expected from the Punjab; the library is filling, and the museum is already full. This museum is likely to yield important results to antiquarian, ethnographical, and literary research as the influence of Greek art in Asia is more and more clearly established, as the races intervening between the respective British and Russian zones of influence in Central Asia are studied, and as the numerous manuscripts and inscriptions are deciphered. Indeed, the technical arrangements of the museum are also deserving of attention from an educational point of view. Hitherto the student, say, of the Græco-Buddhistic sculptures, long and badly exhibited at South Kensington, would have to travel thence to the India Office for the literature bearing on the subject, and to the British Museum for the coins by which he might hope to identify a sculpture. At Woking every table of exhibits is furnished with a seat for the student, who has before him the objects of his inquiry, and the books or manuscripts bearing on it, including, of course, a descriptive catalogue, whilst kindred subjects are illustrated within his immediate reach. He is also stimulated not only to study, but also to discover. For instance, vast trays of coins are left purposely disarranged, but with photographs and catalogues by their side. Others, again, have actual models of classification before them for the guidance of the arranger, whilst some are entirely undescribed. Ancient and modern Eastern mythologies are also illustrated by carvings and pictures, and their influence on the art manufactures is shown till the practical stage is reached, at which, by turning up a volume of specimens, an English merchant may order direct from the native artisan an article of Punjab workmanship, by simply transcribing the entry in the catalogue, which contains the necessary information as to price, &c. Of course this part of the museum is capable of indefinite expansion, and another hall will have to be built if other parts of the East are to be similarly represented. A village of art-industrial workmen, to be brought from India, is being designed, and ample space has been secured for them on the grounds belonging to the institute, where they can live unmolested in the exercise of their religious usages, and away from the temptations of London. We may then hope to gain a further insight into the literary basis of Indian industries. Reverting to the art objects, nothing is, perhaps, more likely to attract the classical scholar than the group which, beginning with a Sappho by Silanion, proceeds from Cyprus through Asia Minor and Persia to India, where a Pallas Athene, with a peculiar helmet, only seen on one of the coins, seems to have been executed by the same master. When Alexander the Great, shortly before his death at Babylon, received an Indian deputation and congratulated himself on having recovered so many of the sculptures that Xerxes had taken from Greece and distributed all over Asia, he was believed to have left the germs of Greek art in the countries which he had conquered. Nothing can, e.g., be more curious than the Græco-Persian Zeus whose eyes are blackened, or the Persian fire-worshipper who looks exactly like Jamsadji, the modern Parsi, as he may be seen joyfully stepping out of his shop after the conclusion of a good stroke of business. The head of Hadrian, identified by numerous coins, the Centaur, and other exhibits from Asia Minor are similarly compared with their Græco-Indian or other counterparts. Above all, as a study of Buddhism is the Oriental museum invaluable, for we have before us, for the first time, Buddha as he was from a biographical standpoint, beginning with

his birth, his early life, his wedded bliss and princely career, followed by his great renunciation of worldly joys and honours, his periods of struggle, and his successful teaching. The degeneracy of Buddhism is indicated by the tablets, pictures, and carvings from modern Tibet. In the Egyptian collection a strikingly well-preserved mummy, a bronze vase, an inscription of Shishak, who took Jerusalem in the days of Rehoboam, and another on wood by Queen Amentophis, attract attention among more than 1,400 objects that will repay study. Among the manuscripts, the Sanskrit medical treatises contain a mine of information which, as was pointed out in last week's number of the *Athenæum*, it would be well for our medical men in India to explore with the guidance of their traditional interpreters. The poems of the Emperor Baber, alleged to be in his own handwriting, may throw light on that versatile conqueror, who cultivated tulips whilst invading a country. A whole Kashmiri literature stands disclosed in the numerous manuscripts (poems, histories, and grammars) written in either the Persian or the Charde character, of which an inscription is also shown. The inner life of Sikhism and other Eastern "isms" is similarly represented, whilst there is a well-written ode of Hafiz on leather.

In the meanwhile we must conclude by simply glancing at other operations at this institute. There are already six candidates for the next examinations of the Punjab University (of which this institute appears to be a branch), one for honours in the Persian or Munshi Fāzib examination, another for the Pandit test, a third for the Maulvi title, a fourth for the degree of Master of Oriental Learning, and the rest for the B.A. and M.A. degrees of that university. Some of our leading Orientalists have given the new institute their warmest support. It would be well if a separate building could be constructed near the institute for "selected" candidates for the Indian Civil Service, for they would be able to see something of the best Eastern life and practise conversation with the natives, not to speak of the special facilities which would be afforded to them in the museum and in the library (lately enriched by a gift in books of the late Mr. Trübner, the eminent publisher, whose present representatives are carrying out his wishes and the traditions of the firm). The superintendent and staff are well-known Oriental scholars. The students already located in their rooms, which have been specially adapted to the preservation, if desired, of their caste and religious uses, are: a Jain, the first, we believe, who has visited Europe; a Kashmiri Pandit; a well-connected Kayastha from the North-West Provinces; a Persian gentleman from Teheran. The expected arrivals from the Punjab are pioneered by a Punjab Brahmin of high position, who arrives to-day by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer; whilst, to complete the picture of diversity and tolerance, the son of a Christian native minister and professor (a well-known author) will take up his abode with the superintendent on Monday next.

### Literary Gossip.

MR. COTTER MORISON is writing a book, which it is hoped may be published next winter, called 'The Service of Man as distinguished from the Service of God: an Essay towards the Religion of the Future.' It represents the results of many years of thought.

THE first edition of General Gordon's 'Letters from the Crimea, the Danube, and Armenia,' which we reviewed last week, is exhausted, and a second is in course of preparation.

It is Col. Fergusson's intention to produce, through Mr. David Douglas, of Edinburgh, a volume of the 'Letters and Journals of Mrs. Calderwood, of Polton' (aunt of Henry Erskine and the Lord Chancellor), written from England and the Low Countries in 1756. In that year the shrewd and intensely Scotch lady with her husband went abroad to comfort her brother, Sir James Steuart, of Coltness, an exile for his Jacobite opinions. Her correspondence is a literary curiosity but little known, and will be supplemented by a few letters furnished from the family records at Arniston, and a biographical sketch and notes. The volume is expected to be ready by the autumn.

THE death of Mr. Archibald Fraser, of Abertarff, is bringing memories of Jacobite times before the public. Only the other day the history of the Lovat family was to some extent before the Court of Session in connexion with the succession to the estate of Abertarff, which was bequeathed to the late Mr. Fraser by his grandfather, a son of the notorious Lord Lovat, with an ultimate entail "in favour of the person who shall be able to prove himself to be the chief of the clan Fraser by legitimate descent from Hugh, first Lord Lovat, and his heirs male." At the beginning of next month the Abertarff collection of antiques, pictures, arms, &c., comprising many relics of the rebel lord and of the old family of Lovat, will be sold in Inverness by public auction.

THE *Antiquary* is giving a series of illustrated articles on the birthplaces of celebrated Englishmen—a subject we have frequently touched upon. Next month Kingston Russell in Dorsetshire, the birthplace of John Russell, the founder of the ducal house, will be dealt with, the illustration being derived from an etching taken on the spot. To the same number Mr. H. B. Wheatley will contribute a paper on the meeting-place of the House of Lords, and Mr. J. Theodore Bent a MS. contemporary account of London in 1669.

THE Advocates' Library at Edinburgh will be closed during the month of August.

THE fourth and last volume of Mr. W. de Gray Birch's translation of the 'Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque,' from the Portuguese for the Hakluyt Society, is in the press, and will be ready at the end of the current month.

THE eighth and concluding part of the "Oriental Series" of the Palæographical Society's publications will be issued very soon. It contains, among other useful literary matter, tables of the one hundred plates forming the body of the work, classified by languages and by dates. The plates given in this part are taken from the Pāramesvara Tantra, A.D. 857-8, the oldest Sanskrit MS. in Europe, and one of the oldest extant anywhere, in the University Library, Cambridge; the Ashtasahasrikā Prajñāpāra-mitā, a Sanskrit MS. circa A.D. 1020, also in the University Library; a ninth century Arabic MS. of the Book of Job, written in Kufic characters, in the British Museum; an Arabic medical MS., dated A.D. 960; and Karaitic MSS. of portions of the Old Testament, Arabic and Hebrew-Arabic, tenth century and A.D. 1004-5. These last MSS., which are preserved in the British Museum,

are very curious, as exhibiting a Hebrew text written in Arabic letters, but with Hebrew vowels. The British Museum also enables the learned editor of this series, Prof. W. Wright, of Cambridge, to reproduce a page of the Syriac Gospels of the early date of A.D. 600. From the Vatican Library is derived a plate of the lives of the saints, from a Coptic MS. dated A.D. 918. It is a matter of regret that students of Oriental literature and lovers of Eastern palæography have not supported the work in sufficient numbers to warrant its continuation.

THE August number of the *Antiquarian Magazine* will contain an illustrated paper on Southwell Minster, and also an article by Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A., on 'The Dignity of a Mayor; or, Municipal Insignia of Office.'

THE Clarendon Press will publish immediately books i. to xii. of the Iliad, edited by Mr. D. B. Monro, Provost of Oriel. The book comprises an introductory sketch of Homeric grammar, and a brief conspectus of the present state of the controversy regarding the date and composition of the Homeric poems. It is intended to form a companion volume to Mr. Merry's school edition of the Odyssey. An edition of Sallust's 'Catilinarian Conspiracy' and 'Jugurthine War,' by the Rev. W. W. Capes, Reader in Ancient History, is likewise on the eve of publication by the same press. It contains a full historical introduction, giving references to the chief authorities to be consulted by the more advanced student; and special care has been taken in the notes to illustrate in some detail the influence of Sallust on the language and style of Tacitus, as well as his own probable obligations to Thucydides and others.

IN the course of the autumn a monument will be erected to the late Dr. Moffat, the African missionary, in his native village of Ormiston, near Tranent, in East Lothian. The execution of the memorial has been entrusted to Mr. D. W. Stevenson, A.R.S.A. The obelisk, which is to be of red granite and twenty feet in height, will be furnished with a bronze relief of the features of the eminent missionary.

MR. WRIGHT WILSON is about to publish a work entitled 'The Fourfold Domesday Book of Warwickshire,' consisting of a facsimile of the photo-zincographed edition of 1862, together with the contracted text, the extended text, and a translation into English, placed side by side.

MR. WILLIAM DOWNING intends to issue, at short intervals, a series of reprints of the rarer and more interesting of the various monographs published at, or relating to, Birmingham. They will be uniformly printed on Whatman's hand-made paper, and bound in half-vellum. The initial volume of the series will be a reprint, in the same size as the original, of the almost unique tract:—

"A Loyal Oration, giving a short Account of several Plots, some purely Popish, others mixt, &c. Composed by James Parkinson, formerly Fellow of Lincoln College in Oxford, now Chief Master of the Free School of Birmingham, in Warwickshire, and spoke by his Son, on the 10th day of December, 1716, &c. To which is annexed, by way of Postscript, the author's



letter to the Rev. Mr. Higgs, Rector of St. Philip's Church, in Birmingham, who upon hearing this loyal speech was so displeased and nettled with it, &c., that he could not forbear reviling the Author in his Sermon, &c. Birmingham: Printed and sold by Matthew Unwin; near St. Martin's Church, 1717."

This will be followed by:—

"Philotoxi Ardense; The Woodmen of Arden; a Latin Poem, by John Morfitt, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, with a translation in blank verse; another in rhyme, attempted in the manner of Dryden, &c. By Joseph Weston. Birmingham, 1788."

We learn of the death by drowning, at Worsley, near Manchester, of Mr. Thomas Hayes, formerly a well-known bookseller in Manchester. He retired from the trade several years ago, having disposed of his valuable collection of books and the business to Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co. Mr. Hayes was sixty-seven years of age.

SEVERAL scholars in the United States have issued a circular proposing the formation of an American Historical Society, and summoning for a date in September a conference of historical students favourable to the idea.

AMERICANS are naturally solicitous about preserving the houses and other relics associated with the memory of their great men. An outcry has been raised over the threatened destruction of the house in which Poe lived at Fordham during the most interesting period of his life. The odd thing is that the act of vandalism was contemplated by a recent purchaser of the estate, who is described as "a warm admirer" of Poe, and who had resolved to build "a fitting mansion" on the site—for himself.

THE *Indian Mirror* draws attention to the fact that a well-known journal in Bengali, the *Bharati*, is edited by a lady, Srimati Swarna Kumari Devi, the daughter of Debendra Nath Tagore. She is not, however, the only Bengali lady who has distinguished herself in the field of journalistic literature, as the late Bama Sundari Devi started a vernacular magazine and conducted it with ability for many years.

THE death at Strela on the 10th inst. of M. Petrovich Soukonin is announced from St. Petersburg. M. Soukonin's name is well known in Russian literature by his drama 'A Russian Wedding'; a number of historical romances and essays on a variety of subjects, which in many instances appeared under the pseudonym of "Stardin"; and especially his articles on gold and silver currency, on bank-notes and banking operations. M. Soukonin's literary labours were the occupation of the leisure which could be spared from his employment in the naval and afterwards the civil service of his country, in which the main portion of his life was spent.

A MUCH-NEEDED step in the right direction has been taken by the establishment in Calcutta of a zenana library. One of the stock arguments against the education of Indian women is that when educated there is difficulty in providing them with books fit for female reading. The library, it is said, has already been a great success.

## SCIENCE

*The Nordenfelt Machine Guns.* By Thorsten Nordenfelt. (Portsmouth, Griffin & Co.)

THIS handsomely got-up volume contains a treatise describing in detail the Nordenfelt machine guns, and comparing the system on which they are constructed with the other rival systems which are now contending for superiority.

Mr. Nordenfelt dismisses in a paragraph the early history of small-bore machine guns, which, however, is almost coeval with that of cannon. Firearms having many barrels, intended either to be fired together or in rapid succession, were introduced in the earliest days of artillery, when true *mitrailleurs* were used under the names of *ribaudequins*, *orgues*, *orgels*, and organ or tube guns, &c., in which several musket barrels were united in a single mass like the Gatling, or on a rigid framework like the modern Nordenfelt.

As early as 1347, says Lieut.-Col. Owen, four breech-loading tubes of small calibre were used in Flanders, placed on a two-wheeled cart, with their muzzles protruding through a wooden screen; and again, the same author mentions a machine used in Italy in the fourteenth century, consisting of a carriage having 144 small *bombardelles*, ranged in rows of twelve, three of which rows could be fired at once. At the battle of Tongres also, in the year 1408, a number of *ribaudequins* were used; and the Duke of Burgundy's army of 40,000 men had 2,000 organ guns, besides cannon, according to Napoleon III. in his 'Études sur l'Avenir de l'Artillerie.' Towards the end of the fifteenth century field pieces superseded the organ guns, which, however, were used as late as the seventeenth century; for Ufano gives the drawing of a four-tubed gun in 1621; and in 1644, at the fight at Copredy Bridge, the Cavaliers captured two *barriadoes* of wood drawn upon wheels, on each of which were mounted seven small brass and leather guns charged with case. During the two centuries which ensued multi-barrel guns were disregarded, and it was not until 1853 that a Mr. Goddard invented a rifle battery of thirty-six barrels; and later on several descriptions of such compound weapons were brought forward by Sir J. Scott Lillie and other inventors.

None of these modern inventions was ever actually used on service, and it was not until 1862-3 that the modern type of rifle-calibre machine guns was practically applied in warfare. The first of these was called a *regua* rifle battery. This engine consisted of twenty-five rifle barrels, each two feet long, arranged horizontally on an iron frame upon a field carriage; it could fire at the rate of 175 shots per minute, and was employed at the siege of Charleston. General Gilmore was satisfied with this weapon as well adapted for the defence of earthworks; but the early Gatlings, when exhibited to General McClellan before Richmond, were contemptuously termed "coffee-grinders," and never brought into action. Numerous improvements and new systems had meanwhile been brought out by inventors, of whom we may mention Col. Martin in 1860, Palmer and Vandenberg in 1862, Dupuis and Capt. Warlow in 1866. At length, in the year

1869, the subject of many-barrelled rifle batteries attracted the notice of several governments, and the English War Office purchased *mitrailleurs* on the Gatling and Montigny principles, and appointed a special committee to experiment upon these weapons, their reports appearing in 1870-71. Mean time the Franco-German war had broken out in July, 1870, when the French employed their famous *mitrailleuses* in large numbers, having in their armament at the commencement of the war as many as 190 of these machine guns. The *mitrailleuse* was of what is known as the Montigny type, and consisted of from twenty-five to thirty-seven rifled barrels, fixed in several layers, one above the other, the whole surrounded with a bronze casing; its average rapidity of fire was about 150 to 250 shots per minute.

In Prussia likewise both Montigny and Gatling guns had been tried in 1869, but had not been approved of; whilst the American Government adopted the Gatling into the United States service. During the war in 1870 a battery of four "revolver-cannon" was formed under Count Thürheim, and attached to the Bavarian corps of Von der Tann. This revolver-cannon of Feldt consisted of four parallel barrels rifled on the Werder system, throwing 400 bullets in a minute. In his report after the campaign Count Thürheim considered that the fire of individual riflemen would be much more effective in war than the machine, and the experiment was regarded as a failure. Consequently these revolver-cannon were discontinued in the Bavarian armament. Russia as early as 1873 had as many as 300 Gatling guns; but since that date has adopted the Nobel machine gun, a species of Gatling with alterations designed by General Gorloff. Austria adopted the Christophe and Montigny systems; whilst later Turkey introduced machine guns on the Gatling principle. In Sweden a system of "volley-firing" guns was invented by the late Mr. Palmerantz, and improved and perfected by Mr. Thorsten Nordenfelt, who omits to give the date, however, when the Palmerantz 10-barrelled rifle and 4-barrelled 1-inch calibre gun were first tried. Lieut.-Col. Owen mentions Messrs. Winborg and Palmerantz as the joint inventors of the last-named weapons; but the latter name only occurs in Mr. Nordenfelt's volume.

About the same time that the European governments were introducing the various descriptions of machine guns, the Emperor of Russia had summoned a convention which was to decide in the interests of humanity the delicate question of drawing the line between explosive bullets and lawful shell. It was on May 1st, 1869, that a circular was issued by the English War Office condemning Metford's explosive bullets as obsolete, and it was not long before inventors were stimulated to design rapid-firing shell guns, which should eject projectiles of the smallest possible weight and dimensions within the limits assigned by the convention.

The Hotchkiss invention is taken by Mr. Nordenfelt as representing the system first adapted to this rapid shell firing. The shell exhibited by Mr. Hotchkiss at the United Service Institution weighed just a pound, that is, said the inventor, "about 2 oz. over the weight allowed by the St. Peters-

burg Convention." Mr. Nordenfelt, again, in his treatise recommends his "single-barrelled 1½-in. guns, which fire the smallest-sized shell allowed by the International Convention." No wonder some of the soldiers at El Teb and Tamasai complained that the spears of the Soudanese tribes were too long—over regulation, in fact. Could not an African convention be summoned by the Mahdi to put a limit on the size of spear-heads?

At the present time the systems of machine guns which have passed successfully the tests of numerous competitive government trials in Europe are the Hotchkiss, Gardner, and Nordenfelt. As before stated, the Hotchkiss system is constructed entirely for shell fire, the Gardner invention is more applicable to rifle-calibre fire, whilst Mr. Nordenfelt claims for his system its adaptability to both rifle-calibre and shell fire.

Mr. Nordenfelt's guns comprehend an extensive variety, which he classifies accordingly into rifle-calibre guns, light and heavy, varying from one barrel up to ten or twelve barrels; next, 1-in. calibre guns, which include the anti-torpedo gun, five and four barrelled, medium and heavy one-barrel gun, &c. After this we find enumerated the light shell guns of 1½ in. and 1½ in., and fortress guns. Lastly follow the heavy shell guns, which comprehend the mountain 1-65 in. gun and others up to 2-45 in. This last gun is the largest shell machine gun that can be made to fire rapidly with advantage.

It would be out of place here to enter into the respective qualities of the rival systems. They each have their merits, and their inventors have had ample opportunities of testing their formidable tubes at home and abroad, afloat and on shore. Mr. Nordenfelt's publication will certainly go a long way towards interesting the non-professional public in the performances of his ingeniously devised machines.

This time last year Capt. Lord Charles Beresford pointed out that by the 31st of March, 1884, our navy would only be possessed of 565 Nordenfelts, in addition to 350 Gardners and 142 Gatlings, with not a single shell-firing gun included; whilst the French had then between 600 and 700 Hotchkiss guns throwing 1-lb. shells at the rate of fifteen to twenty a minute, and most of these guns were mounted in position in the French fleet before the English had any sort of machine gun whatever. The same authority declared that Sfax was taken and the forts silenced by the Hotchkiss 1-pounder shell guns in the French vessels, and he repudiates the report of Capt. Walford, R.A., as to the results ascertained at Alexandria. As an expert sent out to examine the Egyptian works, Capt. Walford, R.A., deliberately reports:—

"With regard to the Gatling guns (which fired during the action 7,100 rounds), it will be sufficient to say that after a most careful search in all the forts and batteries no sign whatever could be found of their effect. Of the shot of the Nordenfelt guns (which fired 16,233 rounds) five marks were found."

There is little doubt that machine guns are well adapted for boat work, and shell rapid-firing guns for anti-torpedo boat work; but when machine guns attempt to compete with the smallest pieces of ordnance

which fire shrapnel and case they are (up to the present), so to say, out of it altogether.

*Poisons: their Effects and Detection.* By Alexander Wynter Blyth. (Griffin & Co.)—Mr. Blyth, in preparing a new edition of his 'Practical Chemistry,' has introduced some sweeping changes. He has not only largely rewritten the work, but has altered its title and divided it into two volumes, each forming an independent manual. One of these volumes is devoted to the subject of food, the other to that of poisons. It is the latter to which we now call attention. The early pages of this manual are occupied by an introductory essay, in which the author sketches—much too briefly—the history of poisons among the ancients, and traces the modern growth of toxicology. Here we naturally find some account of the iniquitous Locusta, who is said to have prepared the poison by which Agrippina got rid of Claudius and Nero of Britannicus; and of the equally infamous Toffana, whose *acquetta di Napoli* is reputed to have poisoned more than six hundred persons, including Popes Pius III. and Clement XIV. It is consoling to reflect that at the present day it is absolutely impossible for a Locusta or a Toffana to carry on her crimes undetected, thanks to the advance of toxicological science and to such works as Mr. Blyth's. In this volume he describes, in much detail, the characteristics of all known mineral and organic poisons; explains their effects upon the organism; points out the recognized antidotes; and, above all, sets forth the means employed for their detection. There is also a chapter on the identification of blood-stains. Thanks to his position as medical officer of health for Marylebone and as a public analyst, Mr. Blyth has had much experience in medical jurisprudence, and has consequently been able to treat his subject from a practical point of view. The volume forms a thorough treatise on toxicology, and will probably remain for a long time a standard work of reference.

*Le Monde Physique.* Par Amédée Guillemin. —Part IV. *La Chaleur.* (Paris, Hachette & Co.)—This is one of those sumptuous scientific works, of a semi-popular character, which find a large circle of readers among intelligent Frenchmen. It treats its subject much more profoundly than most popular works are in the habit of doing, and, in fact, contains an amount of information on the laws of heat sufficient for the wants of most students. Yet the profusion of the illustrations and the care bestowed upon the printing of the volume suggest that it may occasionally find its way into the drawing-room. Many of the illustrations remind us of old friends, such as are to be found in 'Deschanel'; but others are original and of considerable merit. Nearly all of them, in fact, are beautiful examples of wood engraving, and in one case the subject is enlivened by the introduction of colour. M. Guillemin has acted wisely in devoting a large section of the book to the industrial applications of heat, including an account of the various methods of heating buildings and of the structure of steam and gas engines. There is also an interesting description of the source and distribution of heat in nature. For the rest, the volume contains all the matter ordinarily found in elementary works on heat. The book rather reminds us of Dr. Tyndall's 'Heat'; but, as already explained, it is a much more handsome volume.

*Facts around Us: Simple Readings in Inorganic Science, with Experiments.* By C. Lloyd Morgan, F.G.S. (Stanford.)—Some time ago Mr. Lloyd Morgan brought out a little work on 'Water,' in which he made that substance the text of some elementary teaching in chemistry and physics. In the present work he seems to have aimed at an extension of his previous scheme. Starting from such common bodies as air and water, and from such familiar pheno-

mena as those presented by heat and light, he gradually leads the student to the contemplation of some of the wider aspects of inorganic science. Mr. Morgan has had considerable experience in teaching science—formerly in South Africa and at present at Bristol—and he has a very clear notion of the way in which the elements of science should be presented to beginners. It is at once noteworthy and praiseworthy that he does not follow the course of most popular writers by evading difficult parts of his subject, but boldly introduces his reader to the mysteries of science and talks freely of such things as atoms and molecules. Mr. Morgan's little work is likely to be of much use in imparting to the young student a sound knowledge of the elements of inorganic science.

*The Art of Soap-making.* By Alexander Watt. (Crosby Lockwood & Co.)—It appears that no English work specially devoted to the art of soap-making has hitherto been written, although several treatises on this subject have been published in other countries. Mr. Watt has therefore supplied an acknowledged want. The soap-maker's craft is one of high antiquity, and certainly deserves to have a literature of its own. A soap-maker's shop exists among the ruins of Pompeii; and more than two centuries and a half ago a patent was taken out in this country for "the misterie, arte, way, and means of making of hard soape, commonly called by the name of Venice or Castile soape," and also for the "making of soft soape." Since that time a vast number of improvements have been patented, and the more important of these are noticed in the work before us. The author has had from early life a practical acquaintance with soap-making, and the well-known process of bleaching palm-oil by means of chromic acid was introduced by his father in 1836. In the present work Mr. Watt describes the chemical reactions which occur in the process of saponification, and having disposed of the theoretical part of his subject proceeds to describe the appurtenances of a soap factory. One of the most interesting features of the work is the chapter which deals with the recovery of glycerine from spent lyes. Vast quantities of glycerine formed during saponification have been allowed to run to waste, and it is only of late that attention has been directed to the avoidance of this loss. Mr. Watt's book is eminently technical, and, with its numerous recipes, will form a most useful work of reference in the factory.

*London Birds and London Insects.* By T. Digby Pigott. (Harrison & Sons.)—The greater portion of this pleasant little volume has appeared in the pages of a magazine, and is now reprinted, with some additions and sundry quaint illustrations. It only consists of eighty-three pages, divided into two chapters, the former of them treating of birds and the latter of insects. An appendix gives a list of "The Birds of London, Past and Present, Resident and Casual," originally contributed to the *Zoologist* of July, 1879, by Dr. Edward Hamilton, and numbering in all nearly a hundred species. Comparatively few of the inhabitants of the West End are aware of the variety of bird life to be found in the neighbouring parks and on our ornamental waters, or even in our streets. In the present year the mud nests of the house-martin stud the cornices of some of the houses on the south side of Sussex Square, and we have the high authority of Shakespeare for believing that

Where they breed the air is delicate.

The wood pigeon still rears its young in Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, although it preserves its shyness, and it may be long before we shall see this beautiful—albeit destructive—bird walking about among nurses and children, as it may be seen to do any day in the parks and gardens of Paris. But we repeat that few persons have any idea of the variety of animated nature at their very doors, and we cordially recommend the perusal of this small

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volume to all lovers of nature, with the certainty that by so doing sources of enjoyment as yet undreamt of will be revealed to them.

*The Naturalist's World and Scientific Record: with which is incorporated 'The Practical Naturalist.'* (Sonnenschein & Co.)—We have before us the three earliest numbers of this new monthly publication, issued at the modest price of twopenny each. The illustrations are sufficiently good; the head and tail pieces are tasteful, if not new; and if the present standard is maintained as regards the letterpress it is certain that no subscriber will be able to complain of not having had an adequate return for his money.

*A List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey, with References and Annotations; also a Record of Specimens preserved in the Norwich Museum.* By John Henry Gurney. (Van Voorst.)—The author of this work is, as every ornithologist and many of our other readers must be aware, the foremost authority upon birds of prey, and the founder of the unrivalled collection of that group in the Norwich Museum, which now contains 2,985 specimens belonging to 385 species of this family alone. A fresh impetus was given to his studies by the publication in 1874 of the 'Catalogue of the Accipitres in the British Museum,' by Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe; and from 1875 to 1882 inclusive the pages of the *Ibis* contained a series of notes from the pen of Mr. Gurney, of the highest value to the scientific ornithologist. It was the author's original intention to supplement his notes by a tabular index for the convenience of future reference; but it subsequently occurred to him that it might be useful to combine with this index a list of the several species and sub-species of diurnal birds of prey, with references to some of the works in which they had been noticed—an enlargement and consequent increase of bulk necessitating publication in a separate form. The material is now arranged in columns, the first containing the list of species and the references to Mr. Sharpe's catalogue, the second alluding to the author's notes in the *Ibis*, the third comprising miscellaneous references, whilst the fourth shows the number of specimens of each species preserved in the Norwich Museum. The results of additional information obtained as to some species and the modification of the author's views as regards others are given in foot-notes or in appendices. In its present form this work is a most important addition to ornithological literature.

*Histological Notes for the Use of Medical Students.* By W. H. Waters, M.A. (Manchester, Cornish.)—This small and neatly printed book is a reprint with additions of the notes used by the author in conducting classes of practical histology, and is designed to aid students in preparing their own specimens for the microscope. It is evidently inspired by the admirable books by Profs. Huxley and Foster which started the new school of elementary biology some years ago, and shows an excellent knowledge of methods on the part of the writer. Nevertheless, it cannot be compared with the works referred to further than in aiming at teaching the facts of biology in a practical manner. The style and English especially are far from good, and we should advise the author to carefully restate some matters. For instance, the vacuoles of the yeast-cell are not well described as "areas of less dense protoplasm," and the action of magenta on the cells of yeast should be more carefully described. These are minor points, however, in a book which contains much valuable matter condensed in a form peculiarly suited to the requirements of the medical student.

*Report of Observations of Injurious Insects, &c., during the Year 1883, &c.* By E. A. Ormerod. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)—This, the seventh of a series of similar annual reports, is a most valuable addition to our knowledge of what insects are at present engaged in, and is a simple,

but none the less effective monument to the untiring industry of the author in collecting facts from many and widely different sources. The language is clear and simple, and fairly good illustrations accompany it, while the author's power of cautiously summing up the still insufficient facts is well evinced throughout. The section on birds is particularly interesting, and shows how very complicated become all questions involving the relations between organisms of two or more kinds. We are not quite prepared to advocate the indiscriminate teaching of special branches of science in elementary schools, believing that education would rather be benefited by the wider spread of scientific generalities of a sound order; but no unprejudiced reader can fail to sympathize with the project for teaching the rudiments of a knowledge of farm crops and their pests in agricultural districts. The instance quoted by the author, however, only brings home once more the painful conviction that good teachers are rare, and that it cannot be argued that a subject can be efficiently or profitably taught in all agricultural districts because a clever and sympathetic teacher has succeeded in teaching it in one. Nevertheless, we heartily admire the aims and progress of the author with respect to the subject of insects in relation to man and his food, and wish her success.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

MR. JOSEPH THOMSON, leader of the Geographical Society's expedition through the Masai country of East Africa, returned to England on the 20th inst. He is still suffering from illness contracted on the borders of Lake Naivash, and after spending three days in London proceeded to Dumfriesshire, to try what rest and his native air will do in restoring him to health. The route maps of his journey which he brings with him, and which we have had an opportunity of inspecting, show that his expedition is one of the most important of recent times in its geographical results. He has defined a double range of mountains running for a long distance in this part of equatorial Africa, rising into peaks 14,000 feet high, with the loftier snow-clad peaks Kenia and Kilimanjaro on their flanks, and enclosing a meridional trough in which lie the lakes Naivash, Bahringo, and probably Tamburu, a much larger lake, of which the natives speak, further to the north. Lake Bahringo lies at some distance from Kavirondo, a populous country on the north-eastern shores of Victoria Nyanza. He has photographed the grand snowy peak of Mount Kenia, and also some of the extinct volcanoes in the central region. Mr. Thomson will make his first public appearance at the opening meeting of the Royal Geographical Society in November next.

Never in the annals of Arctic exploration—unless, indeed, in the cases of Sir Hugh Willoughby's, Sir John Franklin's, and Lieut. De Long's expeditions—has there been a more miserable ending to a fair beginning than in the tale which the survivors of the United States observers in Smith's Sound have had to tell. On the 12th of August, 1881, twenty-five men landed in Discovery Cove, off Lady Franklin's Bay, in lat. 81° 44' N. On the 21st of June, 1884, seven of them were discovered alive on an island off Cape Sabine, where since the previous October the party had tried to live, but had been dying one by one of starvation and disease, unable to reach the Danish posts in North Greenland; and of these seven one expired soon after the rescue ships reached Godhavn. With these cruel facts before us it is difficult to minimize the disasters of Lieut. Greely's expedition, or even to plead that had events turned out as we had every reason to expect, the venture, instead of being one of the most terrible on record, might have proved successful beyond precedent. Still it must be remembered that up to August, 1883, when, in

obedience to their instructions, the party left their quarters in Discovery Cove, they had prospered amazingly. Every man was alive and well; all the records of their two years' work were safe; and though their resources were infinitely less than those of either Hall or Nares, their discoveries had been much more important. Had they remained at Fort Conger, as their wooden house was named, they would most probably have been rescued by Commander Schley's squadron, though the failure of the two previous search expeditions in the Neptune, Proteus, and Yantic was due to the position they had taken up beyond an ice-barrier which is often permanent all summer. Provisions were plentiful, and there was no ground for supposing that after reaching Baird's Inlet on their southern boat voyage they would not be able to make either Littleton Island, their rendezvous, or Upernivik, beyond the flocks of Melville Bay. Even after being stopped at Cape Sabine their lot might have been better had they found the ample store of food which had been placed in the neighbourhood in view of the very event which happened. However, it is now useless speculating on what might have been. We can only admire the heroism with which the castaways met their fearful fate and the diligence with which they pursued their appointed labours, and congratulate Lieut. Greely and his companions on the fortunate accident by which they were snatched from death. The extent of their discoveries we have still to learn. For the most part they will be meteorological and magnetical, and their value must to a great extent depend on their correlation with those of the other circumpolar parties. Their geographical explorations seem, however, to have been peculiarly interesting. Lieut. Lockwood, who is unhappily among the dead, by following Markham's route, succeeded in reaching an island in lat. 83° 24' N., or about three and a half miles beyond the furthest northerly point attained by that officer. The famous "Paleocrystic Sea" was ascertained to be, as might have been expected, not "a sea of ancient ice," but a mass of firmly pressed "pack," which breaks up or remains close according to the vagaries of wind and waves. Grinnell Land was crossed, and determined to be an island separated from Arthur Land on the south by Archer Fjord, the westward continuation of Lady Franklin Bay. Grinnell Land is, moreover, intersected by lofty mountains, is, like most Arctic highlands, ice-capped, and, what is rare in the North, contains a lake (Hazen) sixty miles long by ten in breadth. The opposite Greenland shore was not reached; but in lat. 83° 35' N., long. 38° 82' W., Cape Robert Lincoln was seen, twelve degrees beyond Cape Beaumont. This, nevertheless, in no way proves, or even renders probable, that Greenland is connected with Franz Josef Land, as has been crudely suggested, but simply that, as indicated long ago, the "Land of Desolation" trends away to the east in a series of broken islets or capes, and does not extend much higher than 83° or 84° N., or much further east than the longitude of Cape Bismarck. This generalization was arrived at (*Arctic Papers of the R. G. S.*, pp. 70-73) by a study of the remarkable distribution of the musk ox, the lemming, and the ermine on the two known coasts of Greenland, and every fact since ascertained has gone far to confirm this theory. A less important observation is that Hayes's Sound extends for at least twenty miles further west than is shown on the charts. Altogether Lieut. Greely and his party carried out geographical explorations over an area contained within some forty degrees of longitude and three degrees of latitude, to a spot only 396 miles from the Pole, which, for the present, is the most northerly point reached by man. It may, of course, be doubted whether the lives of nineteen men and the excruciating sufferings of the six survivors are not too dear a price to pay for such

discoveries. This is, however, a piece of sympathetic casuistry with which the *avant* has nothing to do. Nor, it may be remarked, were the lives of any of the party lost whilst engaged in exploration. Indeed, to the activity of mind and body necessitated by these journeys the remarkable immunity from disease and mortality which for two years distinguished Lieut. Greely's forlorn hope above any of the costly expeditions which preceded him in the same region was doubtless due.

An Italian Geographical Congress will meet at Turin from August 15th to 19th next. Geography in schools is likely to form a prominent subject for discussion.

*L'Esploratore* publishes an account of the exploration of the Albert Nyanza, taken from the late Capt. Gessi's journal.

The Italian Parliament has voted 26,000*l.* for making a port at Buva on Assab Bay and erecting a lighthouse on Fatmah Island. In France 31,200*l.* have been voted for carrying on the work of M. de Brazza on the Congo, and 32,080*l.* are to be devoted to Obok, which it is intended to convert into a victualling and coaling station for the French navy, and which is, moreover, expected to become an important outlet for the produce of Shoa.

Prof. Balint, of Buda-Pesth, the Mongol scholar and Tibetan traveller, has left Bosnia and proceeded to Beirut. He is there engaged in natural history excursions in the Lebanon.

The Russian papers publish letters from Col. Prejevalsky up to March 10th, at which time he had reached the temple of Cheybsen. The Russian explorer proposed at that time to visit the Koko-nor and Tsaidam, to trace the Yellow River or Ghuau-khe to its source, and to explore Northern Tibet as far as the Lob-nor.

We have received the 'Katalog der Argentinischen Ausstellung der Geographischen Gesellschaft in Bremen.' It is a pattern of what a catalogue of the kind should be. It contains a description of the Argentine Confederation, by Herr A. Seelstrang, with an excellent map, the titles of 202 books dealing with the subjects, and full lists of exhibits, the native or local names of the objects exhibited being in each case supplemented by the scientific.

In Dr. Chavanne's 'Carte de l'Afrique Équatoriale entre le Congo et l'Ogooué,' published by the Institut National de Géographie at Brussels, we are for the first time presented with some of the results of the geographical labours of the International Association on the Congo. The map contains much that is new. It shows very distinctly the stations of the Association, from the mouth of the Kulu to the Congo, and up that river to the equator, as also the routes traversed in 1882-3 by Capt. Grant Elliott, Lieut. Harou, Messrs. Orban and Amelot, Lieut. Van de Velde, Lieut. Mikic, and Capt. Hanssens. Now that the spell of silence has been broken, we hope to see published some of the reports of these explorers. The mystery in which the Association shrouds its proceedings naturally leads to an adverse criticism of its aims and objects, and is more especially provoking to students of the geography of Africa.

Some light is about to be thrown on the topography of that little-known group of islands the Andamans, a small party of the survey of India under Capt. Hobday having been told off to map as far as possible the chief features of the islands. The work will probably consist of a large-scale survey of the settlement of Port Blair and its vicinity, combined with a small-scale reconnaissance survey of the remainder of the islands.

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES.

In December last a deposit of seventy-five arrow-heads with transverse edges was found in a field between two groups of the caverns of Oyes (Marne), in a shallow pit excavated in the chalk, accompanied by two fragments of neo-

lithic pottery and some rude flint implements. The Baron de Baye, who communicates the discovery to the Society of Anthropology of Paris, remarks that similar deposits have been found in Scandinavia, but no previous one in France, and that some time ago an arrow-head with transverse edge was found at a short distance from this hoard in the vertebrae of a badger. He suggests that these weapons formed the stock of a hunter.

M. Chauvet has communicated to the same society an instance of car-burial, with partial incineration and numerous ornaments of bronze, in a tumulus at Gros-Guignon (Vienne). M. G. de Mortillet pointed out the analogy of this discovery to similar ones recently made in Jutland. Remains of another instance of car-burial, accompanied with numerous objects of iron and bronze, have been found at Septaulx (Marne).

A section will be devoted to the anthropology of France, Spain, Portugal, and their colonies in the International Geographical Exposition at Toulouse, to be opened on the 2nd of August.

In the course of excavations in the caverns at Mentone another human skeleton has been discovered, but the cranium and femur alone have been preserved in the museum there. When found the skeleton was complete, laid upon the back, with three large flakes of flint, placed one on each shoulder and one on the vertex.

In March last M. F. Gaillard explored four dolmens at Plouhinec. That of Griguen contained a large cinerary urn and a lance-head of bronze; that of Kerouaren, an urn, a band or bracelet of gold, and other ornaments; that of Beg-en-Havre consisted of two chambers—the first of which contained a skeleton, the skull of which had disappeared, and the second three skulls—and furnished several objects of flint; that of Mané-Bras yielded flint arrow-heads, an urn, and fragments of ornamented pottery.

#### ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

DR. KNORRE, of Berlin, whilst searching for small planet No. 233, discovered on the night of the 1st inst. another new planet, which will reckon as No. 238. This is the third small planet discovered by Dr. Knorre, the other two having been detected by him in the years 1876 and 1880 respectively.

We have received the number of the *Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani* for May. It contains the results of some further spectroscopic observations made at Rome by the editor, Prof. Tacchini, of the solar protuberances in the year 1883; and accounts of observations of the nucleus of the comet Pons-Brooks as seen at Nice, Bordeaux, Algiers, and Milan last January, accompanied by two drawings of the appearances presented by the comet's head on the 13th and 19th of that month.

#### EARLY DISCOVERIES IN AUSTRALASIA.

51, Holland Road, Kensington, July 19, 1884.

In these few lines I have no intention of troubling either your readers or myself with a repetition of the arguments I have already laid before them, but as Mr. Petherick has elected to bring a charge against me, not founded on fact, in connexion with the Hakluyt Society and the statements of Galvano, as published in one of their volumes, I think it due to the Society and myself to place the matter in its true light, and the more so as Mr. Petherick's complaint is made in relation to a letter of mine to him which the reader has not seen. I shall, therefore, quote verbatim that portion of my letter which relates to Mr. Petherick's complaint against me. He says: "In Mr. Major's private letter he upbraided me for referring to a book to which not one in a thousand had access.... But Mr. Major, as one of the founders of the Hakluyt Society, is rather to be blamed than I for the fact that the publications of that society are not more accessible." He then quotes me as saying "members alone can obtain them." Very true and very right. I did say so. What

is not true or right is Mr. Petherick saying that I upbraided him for quoting one of them. It is not very likely that I should wish a series of works to which I have devoted so much of my life not to be referred to, but I maintain that the scarcer they are, the more need is there for accuracy in quoting them. The following are the words of my letter:—

"As the questions which we are now discussing are of serious historical importance, I trust you will excuse me if I speak to you with perfect plainness. You say, 'Galvano says that the survivors of Magellan's expedition saw inhabited land one hundred leagues beyond Timor, and under the tropic of Capricorn more land, inhabited. As they left Timor 9th-10th February, 1522, and discovered Amsterdam Island on the 18th March, and inhabited land did lie in the course they took (Australia), I believe I am accurate in stating that they sighted a large part of the west coast of Australia in February and March, 1522. No other inhabited land lay in their course. If they did not see it, then Galvano's statement must be disproved.' It is not Galvano that has to be disproved, but you by Galvano. At page 147 of Bethune's Galvano, to which you refer the reader, the following is what he really does say: 'Beyond this Island (Timor) one hundred leagues they discovered certain Islands under the Tropic of Capricorn, and, further on, others. All are peopled thenceforward: nor did they see land without inhabitants, except it might be some islet, up to the Cape of Good Hope.' These are the very words, and what do they expose? As the basis of your assertion you adopt, and refer the reader to, this very book, which is not accessible to one in a thousand, even when a reader is inclined to take the trouble to follow up a reference. Meanwhile you alter (as a comparison of the above quotations will show) the very word involving the whole question from *Islands* to *land*. Far be it from me to suggest that you could be consciously guilty of unfairness. You are carried away by the temptation of a foregone and beloved conclusion. But the proceeding is not the less misleading for all that. What I object to is that you call it 'being accurate.' The accurate reading of Galvano itself exposes the inaccuracy of your assumption; for if the Victory, in its course from Timor to the Cape of Good Hope, came sufficiently near to any land whatever to pronounce that it was inhabited, the voyagers would also be sufficiently near to see whether it was an island or a vast mainland like Australia. Now Galvano says not one word about the latter, but only speaks of islands: a silence which would be inconceivable were your assumption correct. At any rate, that silence in itself deprives you of all basis for your assumption, occurring as it does in the very work on which you rest your claim."

The direction of the voyage was from the north side of Timor to the Cape of Good Hope, and Amsterdam Island was taken in the route. Let the reader then take the words of Galvano and the map together, and judge for himself. I for one distinctly deny that the west coast of Australia "lay in their course" or had anything to do with the question. As I said about the Telez chimæra, either Australia had to do with it or it had not. If it had, it is only in Mr. Petherick's fancy, which is not history; if not, *cadit questio*. Meanwhile, I fail to see that the possession of any number of books on Australia, or a residence of any number of years in Australia, or the making any number of voyages to Australia, can form any excuse for publishing a series of confidently stated assumptions, unwarranted by the language of the ancient chroniclers and unsupported by the evidence of the faithful maps of to-day.

This is the last time I shall write on this subject. R. H. MAJOR.

#### Scientific Gossip.

AMONG the lights of science who are going to the Montreal meeting of the British Association are: Mr. R. M. Barrington, Prof. H. C. Bastian, Mr. A. W. Bennet, Mr. C. S. Bate, Mr. W. T. Blanford, Prof. Bonney, Miss A. Buckland, Mr. W. L. Carpenter, Mr. Wm. Carruthers, Mr. G. E. Dobson, Prof. Haddon, Mr. E. de Hamel, Dr. G. Harley, Prof. Lawson, Lord Rayleigh, Prof. MacNab, Prof. MacKendrick, Prof. Moseley, Prof. Milnes Marshall, Sir E. Ommanney, Sir E. Roscoe, Mr. H. Saunders,

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Mr. P. L. Slater, Mr. A. Sedgwick, Mr. H. Seebohm, and Mr. T. W. Sorby.

MESSRS. CASSELL have in preparation a series of clinical manuals for practitioners and students of medicine. They will form monographs on special subjects. They will be written by leading hospital physicians and surgeons, whose work on each special subject may be considered to be authoritative. Among the contributors are Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.S., Dr. George H. Savage, Mr. Thomas Bryant, F.R.C.S., Mr. Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., Mr. Henry Morris, M.B., Dr. W. H. Broadbent, Mr. H. T. Butlin, F.R.C.S., Mr. Edmund Owen, M.B., Mr. Clement Lucas, B.S., Mr. Howard Marsh, F.R.C.S., Mr. T. Pickering Pick, F.R.C.S., and Mr. C. B. Ball, M.Ch.

THE same publishers announce 'The Year-Book of Treatment,' a critical review for practitioners of medicine. The object of this book is to present to the practitioner not only a complete account of all the more important advances made in the treatment of disease, but to furnish also a review of the same by a competent authority. Each department of practice will be fully and concisely treated, and into the consideration of each subject will enter such allusions to recent pathological and clinical work as bear directly upon treatment. The medical literature of all countries will be placed under contribution, and the work will deal with all matters relating to treatment that have been published during the year ending September 30th, 1884. 'The Year-Book' will be published annually in December. Among the contributors are Dr. Mitchell Bruce, Dr. Douglas Powell, Dr. De Wetteville, Dr. Lauder Brunton, Dr. C. H. Ralfe, Dr. Dyce Duckworth, Dr. S. Coupland, Dr. A. E. Sansom, Dr. F. A. Mahomed, Mr. T. Bryant, Mr. F. Treves, Mr. Warrington Haward, Dr. Semon, &c.

MR. JAMES B. EADS, the American engineer, received on Wednesday, the 16th inst., from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, as President of the Society of Arts, the Albert Medal of that society. Mr. Eads was suggested by the Council of the Institute of Civil Engineers as a fitting recipient of this medal. This is deserving attention, as Mr. Eads is the first American who has received this honour.

MR. GILCHRIST, of Earnock Colliery, at a meeting of the Mining Institute of Scotland at Hamilton on Thursday, the 10th inst., stated that Mr. John Watson, of Earnock, was willing to subscribe liberally in support of a movement to introduce the Fleuss life-saving apparatus into the district, which, it is believed, would be the means of rescuing many miners from death. At the next meeting the necessary steps will be taken for the appointment of a committee to carry out this object.

MR. GORDON WIGAN has been engaged upon a translation of Hospitalier's 'Formulaire Pratique de l'Electricien,' to which he has made various additions and improvements rendering it suitable to the requirements of English readers. The work will be issued next week by Messrs. Cassell, under the title of 'The Electrician's Pocket-Book.'

MR. JAMES B. JORDAN, the inventor of the glycerine barometer, has constructed a coloured vertical section of the principal groups of stratified rocks occurring in the British Islands, giving in bold type the names of the strata, with their approximate maximum thicknesses according to the latest authorities. This section will be published by Mr. Stanford, of Charing Cross.

THE first number of the new series of the *Proceedings of the Scottish Meteorological Society*, henceforth to appear annually in March, will be issued shortly. The society is in a tolerably flourishing condition, having now 582 ordinary members. The sum subscribed to the Ben Nevis Observatory fund amounts to more than 5,000*l.*, of which 3,663*l.* has been already expended. A

commencement of the new buildings of the observatory was made on Monday last. In connexion with another Scottish scientific association, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, we may mention that the Boulder Committee has now completed its work and laid the tenth and last report before the members of the society.

THE death is announced of the celebrated geologist Ferdinand v. Hochstetter. He was born at Esslingen in Württemberg in 1829, and became connected with the Imperial Geologische Reichsanstalt in 1853. In this capacity he surveyed a great part of the Böhmerwald, and in 1856 he began to lecture at the University of Vienna. In the autumn of that year he was appointed to the Novara, and on quitting that vessel he visited the gold-fields of Victoria. On his return to Europe in 1860 he was appointed Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the Polytechnical Institute of Vienna. He distinguished himself greatly as President of the Austrian Geological Society, and he also did much for prehistoric archaeology. He latterly devoted himself to the arrangement of the new Hofmuseen, of which he was superintendent.

MM. MALLARD and LE CHATELIER publish in the *Annales des Mines* a memoir 'Sur les Températures de Combustion et les Chaleurs Spécifiques des Gaz aux Températures Elevées.' This memoir is the third of a series, the first being on the 'Températures d'Inflammation des Mélanges Gazeux,' and the second 'Sur la Vitesse de Propagation de la Flame dans les Mélanges Gazeux.' The whole presents the most extensive scientific examination of the explosive atmosphere of coal-mines which has been given to the public.

THE death is announced of two Swedish men of science. On the 16th inst. August Pasch, the geometrician, died at Stockholm, at the age of fifty-one. On the 17th inst. Dr. Lar Magnus Larsson, the botanist, died at Carlstad, where he was lecturer in the high school, at the age of sixty-two. Dr. Larsson's large volumes on the flora of Wermland, published in 1852 and 1859, are the best known of his numerous botanical publications.

## FINE ARTS

ROYAL SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE HUNDRED FIRST EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE ON SATURDAY, August 2nd.—5, Pall Mall East, from 10 till 6.—Admission, 1*s.*; Illustrated Catalogue, 1*s.* ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

GROSVENOR GALLERY.—SUMMER EXHIBITION.—THE SUMMER EXHIBITION OF THE GROSVENOR GALLERY IS NOW OPEN FROM 9 TO 7.—Admission, 1*s.*; Season Tickets, 5*s.*

THE VALE OF TEARS.—DORÉ'S LAST GREAT PICTURE, completed a few days before he died, NOW ON VIEW at the Doré Gallery, 35, New Bond Street, with 'Christ leaving the Praetorium,' 'Christ's Entry into Jerusalem,' 'The Dream of Platte's Wife,' and his other great Pictures. From Ten to Six Daily.—Admission, 1*s.*

*Wren's City Churches.* By A. H. Mackmurdo. (Orpington, Allen).—This is a book full of talk, chiefly tall, and some of it so tall as to be scarcely within reach of an ordinary intellect. The intention is good, being to plead for more respect for the City churches for the sake of their merit as works of architecture; but whether it will effect much in that way may be doubted. The frontispiece is a sooty drawing, which, but for the appearance of the dome of St. Paul's at the top, we should scarcely have guessed to be intended for a view up Ludgate Hill. It is entitled 'Soul Strivings from Struggle into Calm,' and that quotation will serve as well as another for a sample of the quality of the book. The title-page is a fearsome thing, and seems to be a study in the native jungle of the Snark, with a pair of Boojums appearing at the sides.

THE characteristic vitality of Transatlantic taste is illustrated by the appearance of the well-printed and amply illustrated *United States Art-Directory and Year-Book* (second year), which has been compiled by Mr. S. R. Koehler, and published by Messrs. Cassell & Co. It somewhat resembles the useful 'Year's Art' of

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., and, with similar matter, combines a considerable number of cuts from pictures exhibited in the States, a certain proportion of which we have seen in the Salons and London. Not a few of these cuts, which, by the way, are of very unequal merit, offer clues to the solution of that often occurring question, "What becomes of all the pictures?"

*Academy Sketches, including various Exhibitions*, No. II., edited by H. Blackburn (Allen & Co.), contains a number of small transcripts of the designs of pictures exhibited in London during the season. Many of them are of smaller size than those in 'Academy Notes' which we reviewed the other day. On the whole these cuts are decidedly inferior to those of No. I., published last year, of the same series. At the worst, however, they ought to be welcome as records. It is a pity that circumstances Mr. Blackburn cannot control forbid the collection before us being made completely representative of the exhibitions.

*National Academy Notes.* Edited by C. M. Kurtz. (Cassell & Co.)—Some of the drawings in this book are much better than those in the 'Academy Notes' circulating in this country; more care has been taken with the reproductions, and the outlines are firmer and clearer. It is to be hoped, however, many of the cuts illustrating this catalogue of pictures exhibited in New York are gross libels on the paintings. Among the best is 'Good Night,' by Mr. W. Ward, which the genteel commentator on the pictures describes as showing how "an old negro nurse has brought a pretty child, robed for retiring, into the room." The ugliness of some of the women models is, no doubt, nature's compensation for the niceness of the art critics. A Mr. Huntington is cruelly wronged if his 'Goldsmith's Daughter,' with a large uncorked bottle on her knees, is not a runaway daughter of Mrs. Gamp. Mr. C. N. Flagg is represented by a deplorable face of a young woman teaching her brother. See likewise the works of Messrs. Freer and Hicks. The book is wonderfully cheap at fifty cents, being excellently printed on good paper, copiously illustrated, and well sewn.

## WESTMINSTER HALL.

MR. J. L. PEARSON'S design for the treatment of the west part of Westminster Hall, as exhibited in his drawings now in the Library of the House of Commons, is nearly enough to drive to despair those who are hoping for a real living architecture. If the work had been given, as some others of nearly equal importance have been, to a man notoriously incapable, or if, like a post office or a police court, it had been undertaken by a department of Government on its own responsibility, one might have accepted the inevitable with a groan at the hopeless Philistinism of everybody concerned. But here the importance of the case and the need of special skill in its treatment have been fully acknowledged, a man of high repute has been called in, and there is plenty to show that he has not spared his time or trouble about it. Yet—and we grieve to write it—it would be a thousand times better that the side of the hall should be left in its present ruinous state than that this proposed "improvement" should take place. So long as nothing is done there is at least room for hope.

That something ought to be done, however, maybe freely admitted. The over-hasty demolition of the old Law Courts has left a great scar on the face of the first secular building of the empire, which cannot be allowed to remain unveiled. And such a need should be a valuable opportunity for adding to the architectural and historical importance of the building and for reducing any faults which may now be there. It is difficult to consider patiently a proposal which will have the exactly opposite effect, which will falsify what little of the old history remains in the walls, and will emphasize and

give permanence to architectural defects due originally to the nature of the site, but capable of being lessened, if not altogether taken away, by a proper treatment.

The great Hall of Westminster was built by William Rufus to the north of the then existing royal palace, and, although it naturally became itself a centre round which subsidiary buildings accumulated, the state apartments continued all through the Middle Ages to be on the more ancient site to the south and east of the hall. Its north end, through which it was entered, faced on to a large court, which even in its altered state still bears the name of New Palace Yard, given by way of distinction from the yard of the old palace of Edward the Confessor on the south. The west side of the hall was the side of the kitchen and other offices and what we should now call back premises. That side was not intended to be seen. In the time of Richard II. the hall was as much altered in appearance as if it had been rebuilt, but it kept its old plan and uses. The great roof was then erected, and to support it certain buttresses were built at the sides and other works done for the strengthening of the walls. A range of buildings was erected between the buttresses on the west side, no doubt better than those which they must have replaced, but still they can have been only minor offices in the palace. As time went on other buildings were added to these, some of a better sort and some of a worse, and at the beginning of the present century the whole area was covered with a strange tangle of buildings of every date, from the eleventh century onwards. All this except the buttresses of the hall and certain foundations was cleared away about 1820 to make way for the new Law Courts which were thoughtlessly pulled down last winter. They who ordered that pulling down seem to have believed that it was all they had to do in order to expose a fine architectural front of the time of Richard II. And when they found out their mistake, and called in Mr. Pearson, either they or he seem to have assumed that the only course open to them was to set up an imitation of the front which they believed to have existed. Now, there is not the least reason for supposing that any such front ever did exist; and even if it could be proved that it did, and what every line of it was like, it does not follow that it would be right to reproduce it now.

We will not repeat what we have said over and over again as to the absurdity of pretending that our modern work was done at this or that past period. But, taking only the architectural view, we contend that the conditions of work on this site now are as different as they can well be from what they could have been in the time of Richard II. They who have been searching out the past history of the building seem quite to have overlooked that of the last fifty years. The great fire and the subsequent demolitions and the erection of the new palace have completely altered the case. Westminster Hall is no longer the largest amongst a group of separate buildings, as were those which made up the old palace; it is embedded in a vast building of uniform design, very much loftier and richer than itself. As Sir Charles Barry designed the building the hall would not have been seen at all from the street, and even as he left it, only the north end was visible. The exposure of the flank has two bad results. First, it makes the hall appear as a long, low mass in the middle of the land side of the palace, and out of all keeping with it. And, secondly, it calls attention strongly to the fact that, owing to the rise of the ground, the level of the hall is now many feet below that of the streets surrounding it, and the building appears to stand in a hole. If Sir Charles Barry's design had been fully carried out this fault would not have appeared at all, and it only did so from the north-west so long as the old Law Courts stood. It now appears all along the land front except from part of New Palace Yard,

and the proposed new work, instead of mending matters, will make them much worse. The ground is actually to be made lower than it is, and in the most prominent part of the front will be a range of low two-storied buildings, the upper windows of which will be about on a level with the eye of a passer-by in the street. And what are these buildings for? The lower story is a shed, some 250 feet long and twelve feet high, narrow and ill lighted, and intended as a standing place for the carriages of members. If it is so used it must soon become such a nuisance that its abolition will be demanded. The upper story is, we are told, for the storage of documents, a very convenient use on paper for rooms which people do not know what else to do with. Of the old work, the "restoration" of which is made the excuse for all this, nothing will remain but the west wall of the hall, which will be divided by the floor, the lower part being left to the tender mercies of the horse boys, and the upper being inside the rooms above, where it can scarcely remain long exposed if any real use is found for the rooms.

Surely it would be better, instead of attempting a "restoration" with such a miserable result, to leave the side of the hall with only such repairs as are needed for its stability, and to mask it by a range of buildings on the line of the old front of the Law Courts. These buildings should be in harmony with Barry's part of the palace, but not be copied from it, so that the difference in time may be marked, and in them there may be provided a covered carriage way of sufficient height and width to be fit for use. Such a building would be a step towards a final and satisfactory result, though that cannot be fully attained until the buildings are carried all round New Palace Yard, as was proposed in the original plan.

We commend this matter to the Members of Parliament who will shortly be asked to grant money towards the work.

#### SALE.

MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON & HODGE sold on the 10th inst. and following days the cabinet of Greek coins formed by the late Mr. James Whittall, of Smyrna. The collection, which was extensive, included some rare and fine pieces, and the prices paid for them were very high. The more important were: Abdera, griffin to left, *rev.* incuse square with legend, 17l. Byzantium, head of Ceres, *rev.* Neptune, 13l. 5s. Sparadokos, King of the Odrysæ, the king on horseback, *rev.* eagle killing a serpent within an incuse square, 41l. Amphipolis, full-faced head of Apollo, *rev.* a flaming lamp, tripod, and legend, 30l. Archelaus, diademed head to right, *rev.* horse with the rein trailing, 16l. 16s. Alexander the Great, "Distator," head of Pallas to right, *rev.* Victory, 16l. 16s. Alexander III., Didrachm with a plough in front of Zeus, 13l. 10s. Cnossus, head of Ariadne, *rev.* Jupiter seated to left, 13l. 15s. Phæstus, head of a female to left, *rev.* Apollo seated, 14l. 5s. Phæstus, forepart of a bull advancing to a female, *rev.* Hermes seated to left with Pegasus holding a wand, 34l. Phæstus, bull walking to right, *rev.* Hercules slaying the hydra, 23l. 10s. Præsus, Hygeia seated, *rev.* fore half of antelope and spear-head to left, 14l. 15s. Mithridates, diademed head of king to right, *rev.* legend and stag, 18l. 10s. Cyzicus, half-length draped figure holding a satyr, 14l.; Cyzicus, an ass standing on a tunny fish, 14l. 14s.; Cyzicus, Triptolemus, holding two ears of wheat, standing in a biga, 14l. 14s.; Cyzicus, female head, the hair confined by a close-fitting cap, 23l. 10s.; Cyzicus, head of Ceres, *rev.* a torch and two monograms, 13l. 13s. Troas Abydus, eagle standing to left, *rev.* incuse square quartered, 40l. Cyme, double stater, horse prancing to left, underneath a flower, 25l. Ephesus, head of Diana to right, *rev.* simulacrum of Diana-Ephesia 29l. 10s. Erythra, a flower, *rev.* zigzag lines and a deep indentation, 15l. 10s. Miletus, two lions' heads full-faced,

conjoined at the back, *rev.* four irregular indentations, 37l. Samos, full-faced head of lion below a fish, *rev.* incuse square divided, 24l. 10s. Cnidus, head of Venus to right, *rev.* young Hercules strangling the serpents, 30l. Hidricus, full-faced head of Apollo, *rev.* Jupiter walking to right, 17l. Uncertain, lion's head to right, mouth open, *rev.* incuse square, 19l. Marium, winged female to right, *rev.* swan walking to left, 25l. 10s. Seleucus I., head of Pallas to right, *rev.* Victory with wreath to left, 35l. 10s. Seleucus II., diademed head of Seleucus to right, *rev.* nude Apollo standing with bow and arrow, 42l.

#### Five-Part Essay.

We have already briefly mentioned the designs by Mr. Shields for the Rossetti memorial window in Birchington Church, overlooking the grave of the artist and poet. It was originally intended to use for one of the two lights a noble design by Rossetti, representing the Magdalen at the door of Simon the Pharisee. This is a masterpiece, and Mr. Shields adapted it to the window with success. It was, nevertheless, and for some not wholly explicable reason, rejected by the Vicar of Birchington. Mr. Shields, indefatigable in honouring his friend, again began the task of design, and has been fortunate in adapting another work of Rossetti's to replace the rejected one. He chose the admirable 'Passover,' which Mr. Ruskin bought in an unfinished state from Rossetti because he feared that if carried further it might not be so fine. The drawing was No. 364 in the Academy last year, lent by the trustees of the Ruskin Drawing School, Oxford. The design is founded on Exodus xii. 4, where command is given that if a household be too little for the lamb, so that none be left till the morning, two households shall join together. So Zacharias, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist make the group, with the Virgin, Joseph, and James. Zacharias is sprinkling the lintel of the cottage door with the bunch of hyssop. The Saviour is a youth of about ten years old, holding a bowl with the blood in His right hand; His left hand is round the post of the doorway, and His gaze is fixed on the cross already marked with blood. The boy Baptist is loosening his sandals. According to the injunction, the Virgin plucks the bitter herbs. Further off Joseph carries the slain lamb on his shoulders, which Elizabeth is ready to help him to place before the fire for roasting as enjoined. A table is spread within the house, on which are set the unleavened bread and a skin-bottle with a wine cup. The companion light in the window is Mr. Shields's own work, and its subject is derived from Mark viii. 23, "And He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town." Christ is about to lay His hand on the blind man's eyes as He leads him through the gate of Bethsaida. In the shadow of an arched street is a Pharisee with his young disciple, whom he warns against forsaking the teaching of the schools to follow the Saviour. Beyond, a camel is seen in a distant street, in reference to "Ye blind guides which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." Doves fly forth through the distant gate over the pastures without; a shepherd folds his flock under the evening moon, which shines on the Lake of Galilee dotted with fishing boats.

The pictures by Hogarth lately bought from the Leigh Court Collection for the National Gallery have been hung over 'The Marriage à la Mode.'

MESSRS. AGNEW & SONS are about to have Murillo's 'Holy Family,' which they bought at the Leigh Court sale for 3,150l., engraved in mezzotint. The picture will, we understand, become part of the private collection of Mr. William Agnew.

MR. WATTS's colossal equestrian statue of 'Hugh Lupus,' a gift from the Duke of Westminster to the city of Chester, which we have



already described, has been successfully cast in bronze.

M. JULES DUVAUX, a French battle painter of note, a pupil of Charlet, is dead. Some of his pictures are in the Musée de Versailles.

M. CABANEL, member of the Institute, has been made a Commander of the Legion of Honour; and M. Saint-Saëns, who is a member of the Institute, and MM. Robert-Fleury and B. Constans, have been made Officers.

The inauguration of the monument to George Sand is appointed for the 10th prox., at La Châtre.

LOVERS of the forest of Fontainebleau will learn with dismay that immense fires have desolated two magnificent portions of the woodland, the famous Gorge aux Loups and the Gorge de Franchard.

ACCORDING to the *Courrier de l'Art*, the Direction des Beaux-Arts has sent to the Comédie Française two statues, the 'Molière' by Caudron and the 'Corneille' by Falguière. These figures have been placed in niches in the vestibule of the Rue St. Honoré, which formerly contained the 'Rachel' of M. Duret and the 'Mlle. Mars' of M. Thomas. The latter have been placed in the grand vestibule of the Rue Richelieu, on the right and left of David d'Angers's 'Talma.' This arrangement unites in the same hall both statues of Rachel, M. Duret's and that by Clésinger which was there already.

THE *Moniteur des Arts* says that "Les Artistes Japonais" are now collecting in Tokio the materials for a special exhibition in Paris. A society has been formed in Japan, under the presidency of a member of the imperial family, for the protection and revival of Japanese art. This society comprises a thousand members. One of its modes of action will be exhibitions, of which the Parisian gathering will be one. An exhibition of pictures is now open at Tokio.

THE Ottoman Porte has taken in hand the preservation of ancient monuments. They are not to be disturbed, to be used as building materials, or worked up as lime. A useful provision forbids the erection of a lime kiln within some miles of such remains. Many a sculptured or inscribed marble has gone into the kiln. Excavations are now put under regulation and the inspection of the museum authorities. The Porte has at length awakened to the value of the objects found for the museum in the Seraglio, and of the political capital to be got out of firms for foreign governments.

## MUSIC

*Calvary (Des Heiland's Letzte Stunden): an Oratorio.* Composed by Louis Spohr. Full Score. (Novello, Ewer & Co.)

It is a rather curious fact that, in spite of the great reputation which Spohr has so long enjoyed, both in this country and in Germany, the full scores of two out of his three great oratorios should have remained in manuscript for nearly half a century after their composition. Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel, of Leipzig, published the full score of 'The Fall of Babylon' about forty years ago; but it has been reserved for the enterprise of the great English firm of Messrs. Novello & Co. to perform the same office for 'The Last Judgment' and 'Calvary,' the latter work having only just made its appearance, while the former was issued two or three years ago.

'Calvary' stands in the date of its production about midway between 'The Last Judgment' (1826) and 'The Fall of Babylon' (1842). The libretto was written by

Rochlitz, and the work was first performed at Cassel in 1835. It is an interesting fact, which may, probably, not be generally known, that Rochlitz in the first instance offered his libretto to Mendelssohn, who declined it, because he was at that time engaged on the composition of 'St. Paul.' 'Calvary' was heard in England for the first time at the Norwich Festival of 1839. Since then it has only occasionally been performed, and to the very large majority of our musical public it is entirely unknown. The reason for this is doubtless to be sought not in any weakness of the music, but in the choice of its subject. A generation ago there were many very estimable people who objected on conscientious grounds even to a performance of the 'Messiah.' It will be readily understood that similar objections would apply with even greater force to an oratorio dealing with the Crucifixion. Fortunately more liberal views now prevail. The performances at special services in our cathedrals and churches of Bach's 'Passion Music' have shown that there is no necessary irreverence, much less impiety, in music in which the part of Christ is (as with Bach) treated dramatically; and we believe that Spohr's oratorio might now be revived without the risk of objection being raised to its libretto.

There are probably few more equal writers than Spohr. The very highest level he never reaches, because grandeur of style was always beyond his grasp; but he stands among the very foremost in the second rank of composers. He had a great fund of melody, at times almost cloying in its sweetness; his harmony is always beautiful, though certain progressions, especially enharmonic changes, recur with a frequency which degenerates into a mannerism; and his instrumentation, if containing few absolutely new effects, is always rich and sonorous, and frequently charming in its details. On the other hand, a certain want of breadth and of "grip" where force and passion are required makes itself felt in most of his works. If we compare such numbers in the present oratorio as the choruses "Shame, shame, shame! would they the deceiver save?" and "Upon us be his blood!" with Mendelssohn's "Now this man ceaseth not" and "Stone him to death!" in 'St. Paul,' the shortcomings of Spohr's music will be felt at once.

Yet, after making every deduction, the oratorio remains a work which deserves to be far better known than it is; for it contains much of Spohr's most genial and characteristic music. The orchestral introduction is somewhat laboured, but the opening chorus of the Disciples, "Gentle night, O descend," is full of charm and pathos. The beautiful soprano solo with semichorus, "Though all thy friends forsake thee," is the best-known number of the work, as it has been adapted as an anthem to the words "As pants the hart for cooling streams," and in this form is frequently to be heard in our churches. It is, however, far more effective in its original shape, with a chorus of female voices only. Another very fine number is the air of the repentant Peter, "Tears of sorrow, shame, and anguish" (No. 9), with its effective employment of chromatic harmonies. The solo with chorus, "Father of our chosen nation," is remark-

able for the appropriately sombre character of its instrumentation; and the short quartet, "Thou, Lord, art our refuge," which is almost entirely unaccompanied, is one of the most unmistakably Spohrish numbers in the whole oratorio; nobody hearing it can have the slightest doubt as to the author. We have already referred to the shortcomings of the two great choruses "Shame, shame!" and "Upon us be his blood!" and pass on to notice the more striking numbers of the second part. Among these must be reckoned the solemn opening chorus, "O look not down," the exquisite trio, "Jesus, heavenly Master," the beautiful and tranquil final chorus, "Beloved Lord, thine eyes we close," and (to our mind the gem of the entire work) the soprano air, "When this scene of trouble closes." Here Spohr is seen at his very best. The lovely and graceful melody is set off by a charming and very original accompaniment for four solo instruments—violin, violoncello, horn, and harp—a new and beautiful combination with many delightful effects of colouring. This number deserves to be heard in our concert-rooms apart from the work to which it belongs. One more movement remains to be noticed. In depicting the earthquake accompanying the Crucifixion, Spohr, as might have been anticipated, fails to rise to the height of his subject, the treatment being somewhat conventional; but the number is interesting to the musician from a point in its orchestration. Here, for the first time so far as we know, six kettledrums are employed, there being two players, each with three drums tuned to different notes; and we find here a foreshadowing of some of the effects which Berlioz later introduced in the double roll on two drums in thirds and fifths. Beethoven had already used the two drums simultaneously in the slow movement of the 'Choral' Symphony, but only for single notes; we must credit Spohr with the discovery of the effect to be obtained by the roll on two together by different players.

To sum up—'Calvary' is a work full of interest and beauty, by no means unworthy of the composer of 'The Last Judgment.' It would be well worth reviving by some of our large musical societies. We have only to add that the score is beautifully engraved and printed in the very best German style, and will be a valuable addition to the library of any musician.

## Musical Gossip.

MADAME HÉLÈNE CROSMOND made her first appearance at the Royal Italian Opera in Verdi's 'Aida' on Thursday, July 17th. Since she left Her Majesty's Theatre the English artist has gained experience and success in Italy, and as an actress she has greatly improved, though apparently not as a vocalist, unless her voice was temporarily out of order last week. Signor Marconi replaced Signor Nicolini as Radames, the change being on the whole for the better, though not to a considerable extent. On Monday 'Don Giovanni' was repeated with one change in the cast, Madame Biro de Marion appearing as Elvira in place of Mdlle. Laterner, the alteration in this instance being from bad to worse. Trombones, ophicleide, and bass drum were again used in the first *finale*. On Tuesday Signor Monti undertook the title rôle in 'Mefistofele,' and on the whole gave a more powerful rendering of the character

than any we have witnessed since Signor Nannetti created it at Her Majesty's, though once or twice his memory appeared to fail him. 'Sigurd' has been judiciously curtailed since the first performance, and the general effect of the work has been proportionately improved. The excisions last Saturday included some of the weak, noisy music of the first act and most of the ridiculous pantomime scene in the second. The performance lasted nearly an hour less than on the first night, and the beautiful music of the fourth act was of course better appreciated.

WE learn that Mr. Goring Thomas's 'Esmeralda' is being translated into the French language, and will be performed at Antwerp during the forthcoming season. It has already been heard in Germany, and is shortly to be produced in Italy. No other opera by an English composer has gained equal success on the Continent.

THE pupils of the Royal Normal College for the Blind gave an excellent concert last Saturday at the Crystal Palace, after which the prizes were distributed by Mr. Mundella.

MADAME CHRISTINE NILSSON gave her annual evening concert at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday last.

TWO Frenchmen, the brothers Forré, have invented a new kind of harp, made entirely of wood. Instead of strings the inventors use strong strips of American fir. The sound is produced, as in the ordinary harp, by the contact of the fingers; but the player wears leather gloves covered with rosin. The tone of the instrument is said by *Le Ménestrel*, from which we have obtained these details, to be of remarkable purity.

MADAME HALÉVY, the widow of the composer of 'La Juive,' died last week at Saint-Germain-en-Laye. She survived her husband by twenty-two years, and leaves two daughters, the younger of whom is the widow of Georges Bizet, the composer of 'Carmen.'

THE death is announced from Paris of the composer Coedès, who wrote several *opéras-bouffes*.

M. ALFRED AUDRAN, a tenor singer, and brother of the composer Edmond Audran, has just died at Marseilles at the age of thirty-six.

THE performances of 'Parsifal' at Bayreuth this year appear likely to be successful, all the tickets being already sold for the first two. Frau Malten and Herr Gudehus took part in the first performance.

It is announced by the committee of the Bayreuth Festival performances that Herr Pollini has abandoned his idea of giving 'Parsifal' in the concert-room. The work is so unsuited for concert purposes that we can only congratulate Herr Pollini on his decision.

THE new Philharmonic Society at Berlin will give next winter twenty grand concerts, of which ten will be conducted by Joachim, and five each by Wüllner and Klindworth.

## DRAMA

*Folk-lore of Shakespeare.* By the Rev. T. F. Thiselton Dyer. (Griffith & Farran.)

MANY books, pamphlets, and papers in magazines have been written which illustrate with more or less of comprehensiveness the folk-lore of Shakespeare. As far as we remember this is the first time that the folk-lore of the great dramatist has been treated of as a whole. Mr. Dyer has grouped under headings such as "Fairies," "Birds," "Plants," "Death and Burial," almost every passage which admits of comment, and has given illustrative passages

from many books ancient and modern. A work of this kind might have been swollen to almost any conceivable extent. Mr. Dyer has been moderate in his demands on the patience of his readers. There are, indeed, some matters which we wish he had treated of with greater fulness. Under "Mandrake," for instance, there is some curious information, and as a matter of course the well-known passage in Genesis is referred to; but we are not told that the late Mr. George Smith mentions the plant, though not by name, in his 'Assyrian Discoveries.' It seems that the Pasha of Orfa told him the same wild tale as to the way in which the plant was dragged from the ground by a dog as was current throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. Under "Ivy," too, when treating of the bush hung before a tavern door, it might have been pointed out with advantage that this token, in default of other sign, was required to be hung out by those who sold drink. There are several instances in proof of this to be found in manorial records. For example, in 1562 Thomas Yong, a tenant of the manor of Scotter, which was an estate that had vested from very early times in the abbots of Peterborough, was ordered, under penalty of 6s. 8d., either to at once give up the public house, "domum hospitii," which he held or to hang out "signum aut unum le all wyspe ad hostium domus." The omissions are, however, on the whole trivial, and the amount of well-arranged knowledge is great; but this cannot atone for the unfortunate habit of quoting at second hand which Mr. Dyer indulges in so freely. In the first place, as almost all students have found to their cost, it is very unsafe, and in the second it entails great trouble on the reader who may be not unreasonably anxious to examine the context. Examples of this practice occur so frequently that the excuse of accident cannot be pleaded. For a passage from Drayton we are sent to Nares's 'Glossary,' and for another, from Weaver's 'Lusty Juventus,' to the glossary compiled by Mr. Dyce. Even Herrick seems to be unknown in the original, for we are referred not to any edition of that merry parson's poems, but to a passage as cited in the 1849 edition of Brand's 'Popular Antiquities.' Is Mr. Dyer quite sure that Shakespeare was recording folk-lore, not stating a fact in natural history, when he implies that thunder has the effect of causing eels to come up out of the mud? He quotes 'Pericles,'

Thunder shall not so awake the beds of eels, and gives us a parallel passage from Marston's 'Scourge of Villainie.' We have no personal knowledge on the matter, but the constant affirmation of river fishermen that thunderstorms make eels "run" should have some weight when we remember how sensitive many fish are to other atmospheric changes.

*Die Englischen Comoedianten zur Zeit Shakespeares in Oesterreich.* Von Johannes Meissner. (Vienna, Konegen.)—Herr Meissner has made a valuable contribution to the history of an obscure development of the English stage. It was Tieck who first directed attention to the intimate relations which many companies of English actors maintained with Holland and Germany in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and to Mr. Thoms belongs the honour of having, more than forty

years ago, introduced the subject to English readers. In 1865 Mr. Albert Cohn devoted a volume to its exposition; and several German writers, among whom the names of Genée and Mentzel deserve especial mention, have since continued his investigations. In the book before us the author has summarized the results of former inquiries, and has added the fruit of many original researches. Herr Meissner proves that not only in German towns of the west, but in cities as far eastward as Linz, Gratz, Prague, and Vienna, the supremacy of Elizabethan plays and players was, between 1590 and 1620, fully acknowledged, and that no court festival of the Austrian princes was deemed complete without the services of an English company of actors. The plays in the *répertoire* of these travelling troops were free German translations of the most popular English comedies and tragedies, and invariably numbered among them Marlowe's 'Faustus' and 'The Jew of Malta' and Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice.' The performers were especially famed for their displays of comic power. The clowns liberally interpolated in their own persons ribald comments on topics that had little to do with the dramas in hand, and thence it is clear that much of our countrymen's foreign popularity was derived. It was undoubtedly performers of the rough stamp of William Kempe, whose dance from London to Norwich forms the most amusing episode in the whole history of dancing, that were the earliest English actors to seek the patronage of German audiences, and Kempe has been traced as early as 1586 to the courts of Saxony and Denmark and later to the court of the emperor. Droll clowns of Kempe's type appear to have been the leaders of all the English companies in Germany and Austria, and to have assumed grotesque German names, like Hans von Stockfisch or Pickelhäring, under which they were known both on and off the stage. John Spencer, at one time a member of the Admiral's company in England, took the name of "Hans von Stockfisch," and conducted, as Herr Meissner now proves, a troop of players between 1604 and 1617 as far as Ratisbon and Prague, where the imperial court witnessed their performances. It was this company that the Elector Frederick of Brandenburg took for some time into his service. The warm interest that other princes of the empire, from the emperor downwards, evinced in the careers of the various English companies is vividly exemplified in a description of their visit to Gratz given in a briskly written letter from the Archduchess Maria to her brother the Archduke Ferdinand, afterwards Ferdinand II., which Herr Meissner has been the first to recover from the archives at Vienna. One of the most attractive features of Herr Meissner's work has been his efforts to identify the English plays described without much precision in private letters and other documents, and in many points he has advanced far beyond the conclusions of Mr. Cohn. In 1604 a wandering troop of actors is shown to have supplicated the magistrates of Nordlingen for permission to perform ten plays in the town, and among these plays one bears the title of 'Romeo vnnnd Julitha.' Mr. Cohn could find no trace of 'Romeo and Juliet' in Germany before 1626, but his statement must now be amended. Among other plays in this list is one on the subject of Susannah, and another called 'Thisbes vnnnd Pyramo,' of which the first may have been Thomas Garter's 'Commodity of the moste vertuous and godlye Susanna,' printed in 1578, and the second is very probably a lost play with which Shakespeare was acquainted when he wrote 'Midsummer Night's Dream.' In 1607 Herr Meissner has proved the presence of a large English company of actors at Gratz, and has recovered the names of no less than eleven plays performed by them there. That 'The Jew of Malta' and 'Doctor Faustus' should be among them is not surprising; but it is curious to find three plays to all



appearance resembling in plot Dekker's 'Old Fortunatus,' Massinger's 'Great Duke of Florence,' and Heywood's 'Edward IV.' Much speculation as to the identity of other plays performed abroad, whose actual names are not ascertainable and to which the merest allusion is made in State papers and the like, must necessarily lead nowhere, but Herr Meissner has confined his work in this direction within very practical limits. With so exhaustive a book in our hands it appears to us that further research is unlikely to produce results of any corresponding importance. The fact of the presence of the English comedians in every important town of Germany and Austria is now firmly established. The companies' journeyings, as far as we have examined the subject, followed a very monotonous routine, and were rarely interrupted by any adventure of interest. Only antiquaries of a confirmed dryasdust character can, therefore, be expected to pursue the matter beyond the point to which Herr Meissner has conducted his readers.

### THE WEEK.

TOOLE'S.—Appearance of the Augustin Daly Company: 'Casting the Boomerang,' a Four-Act Comedy, adapted to American Scenes and Manners by Augustin Daly from a Piece by Franz von Schottau. 'Knavery (Morning Performance).—'Cupid's Messenger,' a Play in One Act. By A. C. Calmour. GLOBE (Morning Performance).—'The Lost Cause,' in Five Acts. By Malcolm E. Boyd.

THE performances at Toole's Theatre of the American actors known as the Augustin Daly Company furnish an agreeable surprise. It has been gratuitously assumed that American acting is less delicate and artistic than English, and that such representations as have of late been given in the best London theatres are unknown in America. How far the Daly company is to be accepted as representative we are, of course, unable to state. It is, however, certain that in the line of farcical comedy, which is that now essayed, England and France also have more to learn from companies like this than to teach them. The excellence of the acting of the Daly company is the more noteworthy as the piece in which it is exhibited is far from strong. But for one or two situations, indeed, and the cleverness of a portion of the characterization, 'Casting the Boomerang' might be regarded as commonplace. One character in especial is, however, excellent. It is that of a worthy cit, who, having in his salad days filled his love letters with extracts from the poets, which he has allowed to pass as his own, finds that his wife has collected these extracts, and, as a grateful surprise, published them with his name to them as original compositions. Very comic is the dismay of the man on whom vicarious laurels are thus unexpectedly thrust. The wife, with a faith which is almost pathetic in a husband who of the characteristics ordinarily assigned the poet has only vagabondage, is happily conceived, and her appeal to her spouse to put forth his poetic gifts and make a name among men, which he construes into permission to visit scenes of dissipation on the pretext of studying life, is excellent. In addition to these characters there is a clever situation, in which a girl, left by accident alone in the house, summons her lover from over the way, and, to prevent his proving too enterprising under the privileges thus accorded, holds an imaginary dialogue with her mother, whom she supposes to be resting within earshot. These things, which are in the best spirit of farcical comedy, other-

wise farce, save the play from ineptitude. The acting mean time, as has been said, is excellent. Down to the least significant characters the performance is praiseworthy. It has, moreover, those qualities of ease, truth to nature, and moderation which this class of work is apparently least calculated to cultivate. Compared with the representations of such companies as the Criterion or the Variétés, it is less animated and exhilarating, but equal in *ensemble* and more studiously moderate and natural. A scene in which two or three of the actors appear in fancy costumes almost offends, so out of keeping is it with the apparent reality of the general proceedings. No want of special and individual talent is there in the members. Mr. James Lewis is an admirable comedian, and his performance of an American *bourgeois* is artistic and excellent as it can be. Dryness rather than unction is its chief characteristic. It is admirable in finish, and is the more meritorious as no irreverent device of the low comedian is employed to produce an effect. Mrs. G. H. Gilbert is an unsurpassable old woman. Without screaming or the use of extravagance of any kind she conveys the idea of extreme conjugal pride and affection with a capacity to obtain her own way and a readiness to assert her powers which cynics have regarded as of all gifts the most essentially feminine. In style and in appearance Miss Ada Rehan, who plays the heroine, is too large for the stage on which she appears. She is clever, but on small boards her acting seems overpowering. As an Italian ballet master Mr. William Gilbert is very droll. He speaks broken English with comic effect, and, without being distinctly Italian, is at least a capital foreigner. Mr. Charles Leclercq also proves himself a clever comedian. Mr. John Drew, Mr. Otis Skinner, Mr. William Thompson, and Mr. Stapleton make up a company which, though not without some shortcomings, is fully equal to the work it undertakes.

Two original works produced at morning performances rise above the level of the entertainments usually supplied under such conditions. 'Cupid's Messenger,' by Mr. Alfred C. Calmour, has for its hero Sir Philip Sidney, and shows the manner in which, by the agency of his sister, Mary Herbert, a misunderstanding between him and Lady Constance Howard, to whom he is betrothed, is healed. Slight as is the idea, the treatment gives it a hold upon the public. The language, moreover, is happy and poetical, and the play is worthy of a place in a regular entertainment. Miss Kate Rorke was delightful as Mary Herbert, and Miss Milton as Lady Constance and Mr. Macklin as Sir Philip secured the whole an adequate interpretation.

More conventional in treatment than the previous work, 'The Lost Cause' of a gentleman assuming the pseudonym of Mr. Malcolm E. Boyd is not less successful. A certain amount of resemblance to other works, the scene of which is laid in a similar epoch, is perhaps pardonable, and the dialogue, though unpretending, is good enough to compensate for want of novelty. The central figure is Claverhouse, and the play when first brought out at Torquay was called 'Bonnie Dundee.' The fate of the gallant soldier is linked with

the loves of two young people in whom the audience feels a certain interest, and his last action consists, after the receipt of his mortal wound, in slaying the villain by whom the happiness of the lovers is menaced. The acting was better in the female characters than the male. In the closing scenes Mr. Staunton as Claverhouse was too loud in voice and too conventional in movement. Miss Lingard created a highly favourable impression as the heroine, Miss Lucy Buckstone was acceptable in a juvenile character, and Miss E. Rudd gave a picture of a Scotch ale-wife which was received with singular favour.

### THE 'AULULARIA' AT THE ORATORY SCHOOL, EDGBASTON.

THE venerable Cardinal Newman has for some years back encouraged the scenic production of Latin plays by his boys, and people privileged to hear them have always spoken highly of the taste and talent shown in these performances. This year the play selected was the 'Aulularia' of Plautus—that is, the "Aulularia pueris in scenam prodituris accommodata," as the title-page of the acting copy tells us. Thus the Latin poet has had to submit not only to a good deal of excision, but even to the *contamination* he himself practised, for the Cardinal has introduced from the 'Stichus' the parasite Gelasinus, and has even composed for him at the end of the play moral advices on the benefits of liberty and the wrongs of slavery. These graceful additions would perhaps shock many people, but are quite in keeping with the whole nature of the production. It was not, and did not profess to be, an attempt to reconstruct the Latin play as it stood. The archaeological details were by no means strictly observed. The scene is, indeed, painted to represent Athens, but we do not feel for one moment *Athenis Atticis*, as the poet once expressed it. The *tibicine* who appear and dance upon the stage are not the flute-girls of a Græco-Roman feast, but those suitable to the Edgbaston Oratory. There is, in fact, that observance of spirit and disregard in letter which characterized the reproductions of the Renaissance, and very often made them easy and natural, while our archaeological accuracies make these things less real by making them too realistic.

Such being the general character of the performance, we will add a word upon the details, not by way of criticism, which would be inexcusable, but by way of accentuating the features in the acting which took the audience—a very full house, including not only the parents and relations of the boys, but many men of taste and learning. It would have been difficult to find a more intelligent and discriminating house. The main part (Eucio) was taken by an actor who has already made his fame in playing female parts, and now, with remarkable versatility, played the angry, anxious, contemptible old miser. The power and resource of the actor were unmistakable, though at first he seemed likely to overact the senile restlessness of the character. The small part of Staphyla, on the other hand, was played so well as to persuade us that here there was latent power to be developed by larger scope, nor was there any part of the piece more satisfactory. The parasite was very good, but quite too doleful at the opening; no one would let so whining a creature into his house by way of amusement. And yet as the play proceeded this actor showed uncommon ability, with a good voice and clear elocution. Indeed, all the boys spoke with great distinctness, pronouncing their Latin as what we may call Catholic Latin. The cooks were excellent, thus bringing up inferior parts quite to the level of the highest, and so were the slaves. The acting

copy seemed to us, with its sundry additions, a little too long, occupying 2½ hours with the briefest pauses, and without the rare talent of the players might have wearied a less interested audience. But this is only worth mentioning in case another troupe should attempt the Cardinal's version. We were pleased to see him, apparently in good health and spirits, sitting out the whole performance with the keenest enjoyment.

### Dramatic Gossip.

At Westwood House, Sydenham, the residence of Mr. Henry Littleton, an amateur performance was given last Thursday week of a five-act play, 'The Angel-King,' written by Ross Neil. The drama is founded on the legend of the prince who in punishment for his pride and blasphemy one day woke up to find himself in face and figure changed into another man, while his proper shape was assumed by an angel. The play, as the readers of the *Athenæum* are aware, was published several years since, but had not previously been represented on any stage. Not only are its poetical merits of a high order, but the plot is so clearly set forth and the dramatic interest so well sustained, that, unlike many pieces of its class, it bears well the test of the footlights. The representation, in which the whole of the parts were given by amateurs, was of remarkable excellence. The difficult part of King Robert was sustained by Mr. Herbert James with a power which would have done no discredit to a professional actor, and the part of the Fool was played by Mr. Charles Fry with genuine appreciation of the character. Among the ladies, Miss Annie Woodzell as the Princess Blanche especially distinguished herself. The remaining characters, all of whom deserve praise, were in the hands of Messrs. Alfred and Augustus Littleton, F. H. Macey, W. Bell, Secker, Dr. Dulcken, Miss Kenny, and Miss Anderson. The piece was beautifully mounted, and the whole performance, thanks to the excellent stage-management of Mr. Alfred Littleton, went with a smoothness which deserves the highest praise. 'The Angel-King' is hardly the work for a public stage, its beauties are of too delicate a character; but to the large number of artists and connoisseurs who were present at Westwood House it evidently afforded unqualified enjoyment.

A NOVEL experiment was made at Combe House on Tuesday afternoon. The forest scenes were then given in the open air. The effect appears to have been fairly satisfactory. Mr. Vezin was the Jacques; Mr. Elliott, Touchstone; Miss Calhoun, Rosalind; and Lady Archibald Campbell, Orlando.

A NEW five-act play of domestic interest, by Mr. H. A. Jones, in which Mr. Thorn will reappear, and for which Miss Graham and Mr. Mackintosh have been engaged, is promised at the Vaudeville Theatre.

### MISCELLANEA

*Tempest*, IV. i. 2-4.—In the 'Tempest,' IV. i. 2-4, the editions generally read:

For I  
Have given you here a thread of mine own life,  
Or that for which I live;

exceptionally we meet the reading "thrid" for *thread*, in, however, the sense of "thread," "strand." The reading "thread" owes its origin probably to *thred* of the 1668 edition, being normalized by Theobald, while "thrid" is of Tallett's creation. The folios read "thrid," and that, in its natural sense of *tertia pars*, I maintain is the correct reading, and ought henceforth to be restored in editions of Shakespeare. My reasons, in short, are these. Prospero had been married and had one only child, Miranda, cf. 'Tempest,' I. ii. 56-58:—

Thy mother was a piece of virtue, and  
She said thou wast my daughter; and thy father  
Was Duke of Milan; thou his only heir.

His life's triunity had once upon a time, then, consisted of his now departed wife, his child, and himself. It is one-third of this life that he has now given to Ferdinand, who, following out this very train of thought, declares to his father that he has received of Prospero his "second life" ('Temp.,' V. i. 195) in Miranda. I may also adduce 'Temp.,' V. i. 310, 311:—

And thence retire me to my Milan, where  
Every third thought shall be my grave.

Though this prove directly nothing, it seems to play within the range of the conception that Prospero, retiring alone to Milan, was left the last one-third of his own life for him to think about. In restoring the reading "thrid" in its natural sense I see a beautiful Shakespearean idea; while surely "thread," or its equivalent "thrid," occupies here a position of especial inappropriateness. Could any one imagine Shakespeare talking of "living for a thread of his own life"? However, I should be glad to see what more mature scholars have to say on this point. ERIKER MAGNUSON.

P.S.—Perhaps I may add that "deck'd," 'Temp.,' I. ii. 155,—

When I have deck'd the sea with drops full salt,—

means "bedewed," being of the same root as Eng. dial. *deg, degg, dag, dagg*; Swed. *dagg*; Dan. *dug(g)*; Icel. *dæg*; the sea being looked upon as the (barren ?) field on which the salt dew of Prospero's tears continued to fall during his perilous voyage.

*Risi*.—Grimm, in his 'Deutsche Mythologie' (Vierte Ausgabe), vol. ii. p. 972, has the following in chap. xxxvi. "Krankheiten":—"Ein finnisches lied (Schröter, s. 48 ff.) lässt von Launawater, Kalev. 25, 107 Louhiatar, einer alten frau, neun Knaben (wie jene neun holden) geboren werden: werwolf, schlange, *risi* (?), eidechse, nachtmahr, gliedschmerz, gichtschemerz, milzstechen, bauchgrimmen, diese Krankheiten sind also geschwister verderblicher ungehauer; in dem lied wird dann die letzte derselben hervorgehoben und beschworen." Mr. Stallybrass, in his translation of Grimm's work ('Teutonic Mythology,' vol. iii. p. 1161, translates as follows: "A Finnic song makes an old woman, Launawater (Schröter, p. 48 seq.) or Louhiatar (Kalev. 25, 107), become the mother of nine sons (like the nine "holden" above): werewolf, snake, *risi* (?), lizard, nightmare, joint-ache, gout, spleen, gripes. These maladies, then, are brothers of baneful monsters; and in the song the last-named disorder is singled out for exorcism." Mr. Stallybrass, it will be observed, makes no attempt to explain the "*risi* (?)" of Grimm, but gives the word and mark as in 'Deutsche Mythologie.' I quoted the above passage from Grimm at p. 9 of my 'Folk-Medicine: a Chapter in the History of Culture,' published by the Folk-lore Society in 1883, printing the German, as the translation had not appeared at the time when the MS. of 'Folk-Medicine' left my hands. I have recently received from Hongkong a series of articles from the *Hongkong Daily Press* on 'Folk-Medicine,' and one criticism made by the reviewer has reference to this passage. He says (giving the quotation): "After this latter word [*risi*] the author puts a note of interrogation [the note of interrogation is, of course, Grimm's]. May this not be a case in which a word with an obscure meaning or the name of a priest (*rishi*) is employed to give effect to the charm? Such a use of words has been amply illustrated in Lenormant's work on the ancient magical formulæ of the Chaldees and Assyrians." I shall be glad to be favoured with any information as to this puzzling word.

WILLIAM GEORGE BLACK.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. L. M.—C. R. L.—F. A. W.—I. T. R.—D. J. B.—T. F.—D. W.—W. F.—received.  
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